

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 8, 1959

Mr. Lee Hewitt
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine
7320 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago 31, Illinois

Dear Lee:

There is enclosed an article entitled "The Source of the Nova Constellatio Copper Coinage". It is written in a manner which will cause no offense even though it specifically contradicts the speculations in Mr. Thompson's article. It has been written for the purpose of eliminating any improper conclusions from the speculations of Mr. Thompson.

Would it be possible to include this article in the December, 1959 Scrapbook and, above all, it should be placed in the same front section of the magazine as the "Mint of North America" article was placed.

This organization is pleased to submit the enclosed article and will appreciate twenty-five extra copies, when it is printed.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By 
Eric P. Newman, President

EPN/atb

Enc.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 15, 1959

Mr. Lee Hewitt
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine
7620 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago 31, Illinois

Dear Lee:

Thank you for the note with respect to the article on the Nova Constellatio coppers. We would like to have about five extra copies of the magazine as a whole and twenty copies of the press section containing the article.

Would you be kind enough to make the following changes:

Change Footnote 3 to Footnote 4 in both the text and the footnote numbering.

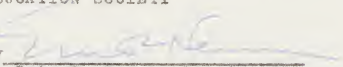
Add a new footnote 3 after the word "rays" in line 7 of the first paragraph beginning on page 5.

The new footnote will read as follows:

- (3) Walter Breen, "Blundered Dies of Colonial and U.S. Coins", Empire Topics (Summer 1958), No. 2, p. 18.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By 

Eric P. Newman, President

EPN/atb



Green

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11. 10. 11.

11. 10. 11.



1872-73
1873-74

1893



Brown

A-D

643

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

April 2, 1996

Dear Ken:

In your March 29, 1996 letter you said you had no photo of the 5 unit Nova Constellatio copper pattern.

I enclose a fine photocopy. I also enclose a colored slide Stack's made for me. From one of these you can produce a nice illustration. Please return the slide.

A few incidentals are also enclosed.

Your peaceful friend,


Eric P. Newman



American Numismatic
A S S O C I A T I O N

Kenneth Bressett
President ANA
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145
Telephone: 719/579-8217
Fax: 719/579-8012
e-mail: Bressett@csdco.com

March 25, 1996

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

I am way behind on correspondence, and only now getting around to thank you for your cooperation in sending me a statement to use in the Guide Book for describing the Nova Constellatio coppers. Very well done, and just exactly what I needed.

The other things you suggested were also appreciated. I will make the appropriate changes, and in the future will include both varieties of the "bit" piece with the Nova Constellatio patterns.

I do not have a picture of the "Five Unit" piece. Ford never gave me one. So I can not include it.

Thanks too for keeping me up to date on the Pioneer Gold saga. It is all very intriguing. I think you are on to something with your theory about the transfer dies.

How did Buttrey's talk on the bars go? I haven't heard anything about it yet. I wanted to be there to hear it all first-hand, but just couldn't make it. I hope it was all that could be expected.

Peace,

Ken Bressett

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

December 12, 1995

Dear Ken:

I return with thanks the photographs you sent me of the Edwards copies of the silver Immune Columbia at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Do you know if there is a copper Edwards copy somewhere ?

Happy holidays,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, wavy underline.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

December 12, 1995

Dear Ken:

I return with thanks the photographs you sent me of the Edwards copies of the silver Immune Columbia at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Do you know if there is a copper Edwards copy somewhere ?

Happy holidays,



Eric P. Newman

Eric -

Thanks for your check. The "coins" will
be sent after the first of the year.

I never heard of a copper striking of the "Edwards"
copy, or any other silver piece.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Kenneth E. Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960-0145

November 13, 1995

Dear Ken:

I was delighted to see you at the COAC in New York and to read about all of the things you are doing to put ANA back on track. You have already gained expressed support which few ever get. This is a true and meaningful vote of confidence. Keep going strong.

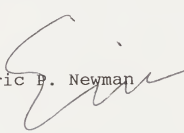
My presentation has now been refined and readied for publication except for the illustrations. I will send you a copy for your comments if you wish as there is time to amend it with your thoughts.

However I do have a slight illustration problem. I need black and white prints for the publication. I thought you might have in your file one which I could borrow and return.

1785 Edwards copy of Immune-Nova (Mass. Hist. Soc. had one). Crosby's illustration on Plate X is too poor. You might have taken a picture of the Massachusetts Historical Society piece long ago.

If you do not have the foregoing do you know who has one ?

Thank you for your customary cooperation,


Eric P. Newman

Oxford English Dictionary

Definition b of FORTY.

Used indefinitely to express a large number.

1607, Shakespeare, Coriolanus III i 24, "On faire ground I could beat fortie of them."

1852 (U.S. colloquial) with immense force or vigour, like anything.

quoting Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, viii "I has principles and I sticks to them like forty."

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032

October 24, 1995

Dear friends:

In the Supplement for 1787 of the Gentleman's Magazine (London) there is an engraving of a 1786 New Jersey copper coin. I believe this is the first illustration of a coin struck in the independent United States. AS few American colonial coins were illustrated before the Revolution in English numismatic literature such as the Massachusetts and Maryland silver, Carolina Elephant tokens, etc. A German publication of 1784 illustrated a German translation of the 1776 Continental Currency Dollar in pewter but this coin is prior to US independence and not a true copy.

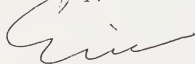
In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1786 there is an illustration of a 1785 Nova Constellatio coin which was struck in England. It was through the illustration of the latter coin that I stumbled upon the New Jersey illustration.

I tried to obtain the full volume of the last half of 1787 of Gentleman's Magazine but it is very difficult because comments on and text of the U.S. Constitution are there.

It is my pleasure to donate the disbound 1787 supplement to the ANS Library in appreciation of the steady research help I receive from the ANS staff. This item was once in the Oxford Public Library but I acquired it from a dealer who assures me it came from a proper source.

I hope this item is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

George Fuld
12134 Henson Garth
Owings Mills, MD

October 12, 1995

Dear George:

You have stated in your draft on Washington pieces something about the circulation of Georgius Triumpho in Georgia, Virginia, Jamaica and Florida.

If I am correct this was first stated (based upon "early research") in Vlack's July 1978 article in CNL, p. 651. Mossman repeated it. I telephoned Vlack to ask his source. He said you furnished the information to him as all he did was the die varieties.

What did this early research reveal? There were no footnotes. This seems important to check on because I do not think it logical. My paper includes comment on the Georgius Triumpho.

Please answer promptly please.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 21, 1995

Mr. Robert Dubinsky
c/o Dorothy Dubinsky

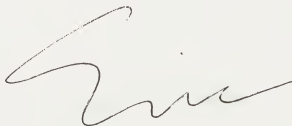
Dear Bob:

You will never believe it but I have discovered some new information which I will present this fall at a coin conference in New York, and will have the opportunity of including in it the research which you did for me in London in 1959.

Both in 1960 and in 1972, I wrote up the information which you found. Now I have expanded upon it in the course of my research by some new collateral findings, making the situation clearer and confirming the importance of what you found.

I do not know your address and since I had the chance to write your mother, I am enclosing this letter so that she can transmit it to you. Please call me the next time you're in St. Louis or anytime you are anywhere.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

EPN:bv

To a Friendly Volunteer:

There is an important comment or paragraph in London newspapers of 1786 concerning certain coinage which circulated in America. We know this item exists because it is contradicted in the London Morning Chronicle of March 16, 1786 which states:

"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, 'Libertas et Justitia, &c.' was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New York, many tons are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England."

The "paragraph" referred to may or may not have been in the London Morning Chronicle. It was in several papers and could therefore have been in the Public Advertiser, the General Advertiser, the Morning Herald, the London Advertiser, the London Chronicle, the Gazette or the London Morning Chronicle itself. The word "lately" should refer to a date not more than six weeks prior to March 16, 1786. The paragraph is probably a separate item and not part of a longer article. It concerns copper coins with the mottoes "Libertas et Justitia" and "Nova Constellatio".

The British Museum has these newspapers. Mr. P. M. Dolley of the Coin and Medal Department of the British Museum knows I wish this information and will be helpful in arranging access to them, if it cannot be had for the asking.

The excerpt will be published in an appropriate magazine in America if it can be located. I hope some good Samaritan will find it for me and send me a copy of the text. It is important historically.

With appreciation in advance,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri, U.S.A.

EPN:jr

October 26, 1959

Mr. R. M. S. Dolley
The British Museum
Department of Coins and Medals
London, W.C. 1, England

Dear Michael:

I am frustrated in not being able to locate a numismatic excerpt from a London newspaper. I require it for an article I am writing and wonder whether you know any one on the museum staff, or any numismatic enthusiast who likes to do a little research, who would be willing to locate it for me.

The London Morning Chronicle of March 16, 1786, states:

"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, 'Libertas et Justitia, &c.' was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New-York, many tons were struck from this die, and many from another; they are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England."

Apparently, several different newspapers published something on the copper coinage for America a short period prior to the above-mentioned date. There were a number of newspapers published in London in that period, as you well know, all of which seem to be available at the British Museum.

I believe that I called this same matter to your attention when I asked a student who was a friend of mine to try to locate it but he probably was not familiar with that type of work and could easily have missed the articles. Can anyone help me out in this regard.

I was very pleased to hear from Mr. Beck that the museum is making his publication their own.

Most cordially,

ERIC C. NEWMAN
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri
U.S.A.

EPN/atb

DEPARTMENT OF COINS AND MEDALS,
BRITISH MUSEUM,
LONDON, W.C.1.

CM/D.

12th November, 1959.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
400 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis 2,
Missouri,
U. S. A.

Dear Eric,

Thank you very much for your letter. The problem you raise is one with which I am completely in sympathy. The trouble is, however, that it could take a lot of time and the work might have to be done at Colindale as well as in Bloomsbury. I am always on to local societies that one of the most useful contributions could be systematic sifting of eighteenth and nineteenth century newspapers and I will keep your letter beside me in case I come across somebody who could help. The man who could and would do it unfortunately no longer is available.

You will be glad to know that Mr. Peck's volume of our Catalogue proceeds very well and I think you will be pleased with it.

Yours very sincerely,

Michael Nelson

To a Friendly Volunteer:

There is an important comment or paragraph in London newspapers of 1786 concerning certain coinage which circulated in America. We know this item exists because it is substantiated in the London Morning Chronicle of March 16, 1786 which states:

"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, 'Libertas et Justitia, &c.' was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New York, many tons are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England."

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The British Museum has these newspapers. Mr. R.H. M. Dalley of the Coin and Medal Department of the British Museum knows British this information and will be helpful in arranging access to them, if it cannot be had for the asking.

The excerpt will be published in an appropriate magazine in America if it can be located. I hope some good Samaritan will find it for me and send me a copy of the text. It is important historically.

With appreciation in advance,

Sincerely,

ERIC S. NEWMAN
1400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri, U.S.A.

ERN:jr

September 30, 1958

Mr. Robert Dubinsky
68 Ladbroke Grove
London W 11, England

Dear Bob:

Your father and I have been working together on the John Burroughs Auditorium and, in the course of conversation, I mentioned that I needed someone to do a small bit of historical research for me in London. He said you had very little to do for the next month and I should not hesitate to ask you. You were really sold down the river by that conversation. I can't think of a way for you to get out of it except to write me a letter and tell me you hate me.

As you may know, I do a substantial amount of writing on the subject of coinage and there is some information I need from certain early English newspapers. The coin involved is a copper coin dated 1783 and 1785 with the words "Nova Constellatio" on one side and the words "Libertas et Justitia" on the other. There is a "U.S." in the center. These were a private issue of copper coins which were brought over from England and circulated in America.

The following article appeared in the London Morning Chronicle of March 16, 1786:

"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, 'Libertas et Justitia, &c.' was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New-York, many tons were struck from this die, and many from another; they are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England."

First, would you check that particular article and see whether it is the complete article on the subject or whether it refers to the previous articles it is correcting. The articles I wish to find are those which were in the other papers previously. I believe that the other articles must have appeared within a few weeks prior to this article. Would it be possible for you to go to a library with a fine newspaper file and see if you can find the articles which were contradicted by this article? If they are long, please have them copied or photostated, at my expense. If they are short would you please copy out the text? I am sure that you are familiar with the library facilities in London and have access to the older newspapers. If you have any difficulty getting permission to do anything you might call my friend, Michael Dolley, at the Coins and Medal Department of the British Museum.

I am very interested to talk to you about your experiences in London and understand that you will be returning home in due course.

I will be very grateful if you can help me in this matter.

My very best wishes.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri, U.S.A.



The European Tutorial

MAJOR WARREN FRIEDMAN • DIRECTOR
ASSOC. DIRECTOR CAMP ROBIN HOOD

Dear Evelyn and Eric:

You'll have to forgive the familiarity - it's the inevitable result of your gracious and warm hospitality which I enjoyed and appreciate thoroughly.

I was out at the Motel on Lindberg road, almost before I knew it, and then came in the same way the following night. Then went through and out of St. Louis (route 50 East) on the very same expressway. So, for this helpful little bit of guidance (and at such a late hour), thanks very much.

Am sending along another folder about ET so that you can transmit it to Linda - also a clothing list - and an application form if she should become enthused about our way of doing things. I'll be in Philadelphia about the end of the month and can meet and talk with her at that time if she is interested.

Am also sending a calendar that you might find useful on somebody's desk.

Again, many thanks for your warm reception and for the pleasant evening.

Sincerely,

P.S. Thank Andy again for me for the wonderful nutty book.
We laughed our way through a rainy day of driving.

January 26, 1960

Mr. Major Warren Friesman
18 Eliot Street
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Major:

We enjoyed meeting you and appreciated your nice letter. We hope that you will have an opportunity to talk to Linda in the course of your wanderings and we look forward to hearing from Linda as to what appeals to her.

Let me indicate that you had a friend in England who might look for the newspaper paragraph which I had been seeking, and I am enclosing an appropriate letter which you could send to that friend, if you still are willing to do it. I certainly will be very grateful. If your friend himself can find this paragraph, or if he has a friend who might do it, you will make me a happy man.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you meet a great many nice contacts in your wanderings.

Cordially yours,

ALICE T. WILMAN

ker/atb

Thurs.

Dear Eric:

Thank you very much for your letter and the little task you set me. I will do my best to get you the information requested. I think I shall enjoy reading 18th Century newspapers. Life is rather hectic for me now so if you do not receive a report from me in the next few days do not despair; I will probably not be able to hunt up the material until next week.

I just returned from a lovely five day trip to Scotland. I was very disappointed with the Scotch cities, but the moors and Loch district were as beautiful as I expected them.

I should be home early in November and would enjoy getting together to compare notes on the UK. It is going to be so hard for me to adjust to living without English beer, double decker buses, red mail boxes, the Times and the like.

I hope you and your family are well.

Cordially,

Bob Dubinsky

Wed. Nite

Dear Eric:

I have failed you. I spend two afternoons in the British Museum and wasn't able to trace the ~~paragraph~~ paragraph you sent me. I had hoped to give it another try, but the last few days have been chaos what with saying goodbyes, paying all my debts, cleaning up the flat etc.

Perhaps the best thing for you to do now is write Mr Dolley or his assistant, Mr Copinger. For your own information so far I have done the following: I have checked the following papers-the Public Advertiser, the Morning Herald, the Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser, the General Advertiser, the Gazette, and the London Chronicle-from 16 March 1786 back to 20 Oct 1785. There is a chance that I missed the articles as the papers are nearly impossible to read.

I am very sorry that I couldn't help you; perhaps you can find a more efficient researcher.

I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

Cordially,
Bob Dubinsky

PS I leave tomorrow on the Q. Elizabeth. I will spend a few days in NY and Cambridge and should be home about the 11th.

December 15, 1959

Mr. Lee Hewitt
Neulawatic - Crapook Magazine
7020 Wilmette Avenue
Chicago 31, Illinois

Dear Lee:

Thank you for the note with respect to the article on the Nova Constellatio covers. We would like to have about five extra copies of the magazine as a whole and twenty copies of the press section containing the article.

Could you be kind enough to make the following changes:

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- (3) Walter Green, "Blundered Dies of Colonial and A.S. Coins", Empire Topics (Summer 1958), No. 2, p. 18.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
KIMBERLY SOCIETY

EFH/atb

By Eric F. Newman, President

January 21, 1960

Mr. Lee Hewitt
Domestic Scrapbook Magazine
7620 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago 31, Illinois

Dear Lee:

In my letter of December 15, 1959 I asked for five extra copies of the whole magazine of January 20, 1960. You might have sent them already but since I received the twenty copies of the press section I am wondering whether my other request might have been neglected. I appreciate your adding illustrations and the excellent proof-reading.

Congratulations on your 25th anniversary.

Sincerely,

ERIC F. NEWMAN

EFN/atb

The
NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE

7320 MILWAUKEE AVENUE

CHICAGO 48, ILLINOIS

Dec 9/59

Dear Eric

Thanks for the article.

Our December issue is all
printed and making well
head this afternoon - so I'll
have to use in Jan. issue.

Very happy to furnish you
extra copies. Do you want
whole copies or just the press
section containing the article?

Yours
Lee FA

December 8, 1959

Mr. Gene Hewitt
Mathematical Scrapbook Magazine
7320 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago 31, Illinois

Dear Gene:

There is enclosed an article entitled "The Source of the Iowa Constellation Copper Coinage". It is written in a manner which will cause no offense even though it specifically contradicts the speculations in Mr. Thompson's article. It had been written for the purpose of eliminating any improper conclusions from the speculations of Mr. Thompson.

Would it be possible to include this article in the December, 1959 Scrapbook and, above all, it should be placed in the same front section of the magazine as the "Hint of North America" article was placed.

This organization is pleased to submit the enclosed article and will appreciate twenty-five extra copies, when it is printed.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. VERTAN, NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

By Eric P. Vertan, President

EPV/atb

Enc.

December 2, 1959

Mr. Don Hewitt
Mundisatic Scrapbook
7520 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago 40, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I find that the article written by Walter Thompson entitled "The Mint of North America" was, in one respect, very valuable by presenting certain material, but, in another respect, undertakes illogical speculation as to the Nova Constellation copper coinage. I feel that it should not go unanswered and while I am working on an extensive book covering this field some facts could be presented now which, in my opinion, show Mr. Thompson's speculation to be contrary to the facts.

I realize that Mr. Thompson is paid for writing for your magazine and I certainly am not interested in controversy or personal aggrandizement. I merely feel that the readers of your magazine should be properly informed and not misled by unsupported guesses. Has anyone else indicated a desire to answer him? Do you think I should write to him and ask him what he thinks? I certainly do not wish to upset any relationship he has with you or to antagonize him, because he can be very helpful to numismatic literature and research.

Please let me hear from you.

Cordially yours,

ERIC F. NEWMAN

ENI/etb

final

The

NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK MAGAZINE

7320 MILWAUKEE AVENUE

CHICAGO 31, ILLINOIS

LEE F. HEWITT—*Editor*

December 4, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
St. Louis, Mo.

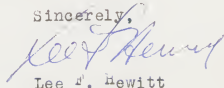
Dear Eric:

If you have information on the Nova Constellatio coppers that is different than Thompson's "speculation" I agree with you that it should be published.

After all speculation is just that and no one can take offense if someone else comes up with definite information or even their own speculation.

Mr. Thompson is doing research work in the Archives and other Washington sources to supplement his retirement income and while he is a coin collector I wouldn't class him as a finished numismatist...and I frequently have to blue pencil a lot of things he writes. He realizes this and takes no offense.

Sincerely,



Lee F. Hewitt

We have as many friends as enemies.

Men. Shall it be put to that?

First Sen. The gods forbid!

I prithee, noble friend, home to thy house;

Leave us to cure this cause.

Men. For 'tis a sore upon us
You cannot tent yourself: be gone, beseech
you.

Com. Come, sir, along with us.

Cor. I would they were barbarians—as they are.
Though in Rome litter'd—not Romans—as they
are not,

Though calv'd i' the porch o' the Capitol,—

Men. Be gone: 240
Put not your worthy rage into your tongue:
One time will owe another.

Cor. On fair ground
I could beat forty of them.

Men. I could myself
Take up a brace o' the best of them; yea, the
two tribunes.

Com. But now 'tis odds beyond arithmetic;
And manhood is call'd foolery, when it stands
Against a falling fabric. Will you hence
Before the tag return? whose rage doth rend
Like interrupted waters, and o'erbear
What they are used to bear.

Men. Pray you, be gone: 241
I'll try whether my old wit be in request

242. "One time will owe another"; "Another time will offer when you may be quits with them." There is a common proverb, "a good turn deserves another."—H. N. H.

With those that have but little: this must be
patch'd

With cloth of any color.

Com. Nay, come away.

[*Exeunt Coriolanus, Cominius, and others.*]

First Patrician. This man has marr'd his fortune.

Men. His nature is too noble for the world:

He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for 's power to thunder. His heart's
his mouth:

What his breast forges, that his tongue must
vent;

And, being angry, does forget that ever

He heard the name of death. 260

[*A noise within.*]

Here's goodly work!

Sec. Pat. I would they were a-bed!

Men. I would they were in Tiber! What, the
vengeance,

Could he not speak 'em fair?

Re-enter Brutus and Sicinius, with the rabble.

Sic. Where is this viper,
That would depopulate the city, and
Be every man himself?

Men. You worthy tribunes—

Sic. He shall be thrown down the Tarpeian rock
With rigorous hands: he hath resisted law,
And therefore law shall scorn him further trial
Than the severity of the public power,
Which he so sets at nought.

First Cil. He shall well know 270

fortunate sb. and v. + -ED. Having fortune (of a specified kind); †also, = fortunate (*obs.*). Of an event: Characterized by a (specified) fortune.

†1374 CHAUCER *Compl. Mars* 180 My lady is...so wel ortuned and thewed. †1470 HENRY Wallace VIII. 685 A ortonyt man. 1484 CAXTON *Fables of Esop* iii. iii. He that is wel fortunat and happy. — *Curial* 15 O fortunat men. 1606 SHAKS. *Ant. & Cl.* iv. xv. 24 The full-Fortun'd Cæsar. 1887 SAINTSBURY *Hist. Elizab. Lit.* (1804) 202 The poisoning being like Juliet's a mere trick though differently fortunat.

b. Possessed of a 'fortune' or portion.
1631 SHIRLEY *Love in Maze* i. i. This Gerard is a gentleman Of handsome parts, And, they say, fortunat. 1748 RICHARDSON *Clarissa* (1811) l. xl. 299, I must go to him, and to his, as an obliged and half-fortunat person.

fortune-hunter. One who seeks to win a fortune; *esp.* one who tries to capture an heiress.

1689 J. CARLISLE (*title*), The Fortune Hunters, or two Fools well met, a Comedy. 1755 *Gentl. Mag.* XXV. 111 Several Irish brigades...may be formed out of those aboddied men which are called Fortune-hunters. 1838 LYTTON *Alice* l. i. x. 36 If she were of our sex, [she] would make a capital fortune-hunter.

So 'fortune-hunting *vbl. sb. and ppl. a.*
1766 GOLDSM. *Vic. W. v.* There is no character more contemptible than a man that is a fortune-hunter; and I can see no reason why fortune-hunting women should be contemptible too. 1793 MRS. ELIZA PARSONS *Woman as she should be* ll. 122 Poor Harry...is gone a fortune hunting to India. 1870 LOWELL *Among my Bks.* Ser. i. (1873) 125 [A] fortune-hunting count.

†'fortunel, *a. Obs.* [a. OF. *fortunal*, -el: see FORTUNE sb. and -AL'] Fortuitous, accidental.

†1374 CHAUCER *Boeth. v. metr. i.* 117 (Camb. MS.) The wateres I medlyd wrappith or implieth many fortunel [L. *fortuitos*] happis or maneres.

'fortuneless, *a.* [f. FORTUNE sb. + -LESS.] Without (good) fortune, luckless, unfortunate. Also, destitute of a 'fortune' or portion.
1596 SPENSER *F.Q.* iv. viii. 27 Against all hard mishaps and fortunelesse misfarc. 1669 Raleigh's *Troub.* in *Select. Harl. Mus.* (1793) 227 Being a person not full twenty years old, left friendless and fortuneless. 1836 Fraser's *Mag.* XIII. 314 Flaunting, fortuneless, over-educated girls. 1864 HAWTHORNE *Grimshawe* iv. (1891) 41 The utilitarian line of education...especially desirable for a fortuneless boy.

'fortune-teller. [See FORTUNE sb. 3d.] One who 'tells fortunes'.
1590 SHAKS. *Com. Err. v. i.* 239 One Pinch...A thred-bare lugger, and a Fortune-teller. 1612 J. MASON *Anat. Sorc.* 46 They travelled about the country, as fortune-tellers...and such like do with us. 1716 SWIFT *Phillis* 51 Long ago a fortune-teller Exactly said what now befel her. 1874 BURNARD *My Time* xii. 101 The fortune-teller, who, from the lines engraved on the open palm, predicts a destiny.

'fortune-telling, *vbl. sb.* [Cf. *prec.*] The practice of 'telling fortunes'.
1577 NORTHBROOKE *Dicing* (1843) 56 Forbidding...euill and vnprofitable arts...or fortune tellings. 1598 SHAKS. *Merry W.* iv. ii. 184 We are simple men; wee doe not know what's brought to passe vnder the profession of Fortune-telling. 1655 WALTON *Angler* v. (ed. 2) 161 The Gypsies were then to divide all the money...got...by Fortune telling.

forty ('fo:ti), *a. and sb.* Forms: 1 *fēowertig*, *fēowurtig*, *Northumb.* *feowertig*, 2 *Orm.* *fowwertig*, *feortig*, 2-3 *f(e)owerti*, 3 *feowerti*, *f(e)uwerti*, *fuerti*, *feowrti*, *fourte*, 3-4 *fourt*, *south.* *vourt*, -y, (3 *forti*), 3-8 *fourty*, 4 *faurty*, 5 *fourthi*, -y, 6 *fourtie*, -ye, *fortie*, 6- *forty*. [OE. *fēowertig* = OFris. *fiuwertich*, OS. *fiwartig*, *fiartig*, *fiortig* (MDu. *viertich*, Du. *veertig*), OHG. *fiortzug* (MHG. *vierzie*, mod. Ger. *vierzig*), ON. *fiórer tiger*, *fiortutigi*, *fiortuti* (Sw. *fyratio*, *fyrtio*, Da. *fyrrettyve*, *firti*), Goth. *fidwōrt tigus*: see FOUR and -TY.]

A. adj. a. The cardinal number equal to four tens, represented by the figures 40, xl, or XL. Also in comb. with numbers below ten (cardinal and ordinal), as *forty-one*, *forty-first*, etc.

†c950 Lindisf. *Gosp. Matt.* iv. 2 & mib by gefæste feowertig daga & feowertig næhta. †1175 *Cott. Hom.* 227 He hi afedde feortig wintre. †c1200 *Trin. Coll. Hom.* 61 Adam was in helle in pine fuerti hundred wintre for his sinne. 1297 R. GLOUC. (1724) 419 More pan a uourty prer hyt was bet he was ybore. †1386 CHAUCER *Can. Yeom. Prol. & T.* 808 If that thee list it have. Ye shul paye forty pound. †1489 CAXTON *Sonnes of Aymon* i. 55 He hadde noo moo wth hym but fourthi. †c1585 R. BROWNE *Ans. Cartwright* 43 In the fourtie and eght Psalme. 1698 FRYER *Acc. E. India & P.* 94 At the end of their Quarantine, which is Forty days. 1707 HEARNE *Collect.* (Oxf. Hist. Soc.) l. 323 He died in the forty fifth year of his Age. 1803 HATCHETT in *Phil. Trans.* XCII. 89 It...was found to contain one forty-eighth of antimony. 1825 J. NEAL *Bro. Jonathan* II. 188 The day...according to his calculation, was about forty-eight hours. 1860 READE *Cloister & H.* xxv, Dietrich's forty years weighed him down like forty bullets.

b. Used indefinitely to express a large number. *like forty* (U.S. colloq.): with immense force or vigour, 'like anything'.

1607 SHAKS. *Cor.* iii. i. 243 On faire ground I could beat fortie of them. 1619 G. HERBERT *Let.* 19 Jan. Wks. 1859 l. 381, I have forty businesses in my hands: your Courtesy will pardon the haste of your humblest Servant. 1692 R. L'ESTRANGE *Fables* ccvi, He that's Well, already, and upon a Levity of Mind, Quits his Station, in hopes to be Better, 'tis Forty to One, he loses by the Change. 1852 MRS. STOWE *Uncle Tom's C.* viii, 'I has principles and I sticks to them like forty'.

c. †*forty pence*: a customary amount for a wager. *forty winks* (colloq.): a short nap, *esp.* after dinner.

1567 HARMAN *Catech* viii. 46 Forty pence gaged vpon a matche of wrastling. 1613 SHAKS. *Hen. VIII.* ii. iii. 89 How tastes it? is it bitter? forty pence, no. 1872 *Punch* 16 Nov. 208/2 If a...man, after reading steadily through the Thirty-nine Articles, were to take forty winks. 1887 SIMS *Mary Jane's Mem.* 228 I'm tired, and I want my forty winks.

†d. = FORTIETH. *Obs.*
1559 *Homilies* i. *Good Wks.* iii. (1859) s8 Sectes...were neither the forty part so many among the Jewes, nor [etc.].

e. *the forty hours* (also qualifying *devotion*, etc.; It. *le quarant' ore*): in the R.C. Church, the continuous exposition of the Host for forty hours, used as an occasion of special devotion or intercession.

1759 A. BUTLER *Lives Saints* IV. 560 The saint...ordered the forty hours prayer for his recovery. 1839 K. H. DIGBY

Mores Cath. IX. iii. 79 The devotion of the forty hours prayer instituted by a poor Capuchin friar, Joseph of Milan. 1869 A. T. DRANE *Life Mother Margaret Hallahan* vii. 189. During the Octave of Corpus Christi this year the Devotion of the Forty Hours was for the first time celebrated in St. Catherine's Convent. 1922 *Cath. Encycl.* Suppl. 29/1 The Forty Hours' Adoration. 1967 *New Cath. Encycl.* V. 1036/1 Forty hours devotion. A continuous period of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, begun and terminated with a solemn high Mass, procession where possible, Litany of the Saints, and special prayers. *Ibid.* 1036/2 Forty Hours has come to be a devotion simply honoring the Blessed Sacrament rather than a means of making reparation or of petitioning for peace.

B. sb.

1. a. The age of 40 years. b. *the forties*: the years between 40 and 50 of a century or of one's life.

1732 *BERKELEY Alciph.* l. §1 Alciphron is above forty. 1885 *Athenaeum* 18 July 83/1 His *magnus opus* was published in Edinburgh some time in the forties. 1893 *Geo. Hill Hist. Eng. Dress* II. 243 What were called half-caps were worn in the early forties.

2. *the forty*: a designation applied to certain public bodies in various countries and at various periods, from the number of their members; e.g. to several courts of justice in the Venetian republic; to a body of itinerant justices in ancient Attica, empowered to try petty actions; to the French Academy, and (occasionally) to the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

1820 *BYRON Mar. Fal.* i. 24 'Tis not for us To anticipate the sentence of the Forty.

3. A yacht of forty tons burden.

1894 *Field* 9 June 836/1 The two big cutters had left... the two forties many miles astern.

4. *the roaring forties*: see ROARING FORTIES as main entry.

5. One fourth of a quarter section of land, comprising forty acres. U.S.

1845 C. M. KIRKLAND *Western Clearings* 2 Eighties and forties... are plain enough when one is habituated to them. 1873 E. EGLESTON *Myst. Metrop.* i. 19 It was just so many quarter sections, 'eighties', and 'forties' to be bought low. 1902 S. E. WHITE *Blazed Trail* i. 13 The men who were to fell the trees, Radway distributed along one boundary of a 'forty'. 1913 G. STRATTON-PORTER *Laddie* (1917) xiv. 276. I had thought we would commence on the east forty when planning the work [of ploughing]. 1947 *Pacific Discovery* Jan.-Feb. 5/1 This was wilderness, as distinct from the back forty.

6. A period of forty minutes' play.

1913 *Field* 25 Oct. 904/2 Light forwards are bound to be worn down in two 'forties' by heavier.

7. A 'crook', thief, sharper (in quot. 1879, a convict). *Austral. slang.*

1879 *Mrs. C. Cook Comic Hist. N.S.W.*, Fifteen of the 'Forties' became free of the colony this June. 1882 *Sydney Slang Dict.* 8/2 *The Forties*, the worst types of 'the talent' who get up rows in a mob... and sometimes assault and rob, either in barrooms or the streets. 1885 *Australasian Printers' Keepsake* 116 Ah, them were jolly days indeed, Long ere the Vandemonian swarm had come... Or ere the 'Forty' had captured our trade. 1927 M. M. BENNETT *Christians* xxii. 194 Their numbers swelled with rowdies and 'forties'—gambling sharpers who travelled from shed to shed making five pounds by cheating for every five shillings they earned.

C. in Combination.

1. Combination of the simple numeral with a sb. (used *attrib.* or *ellipt.* as sbs.), and parasynthetic derivatives of these: forty-acre U.S. and N.Z., a section of land comprising forty acres (cf. B. 5); forty-foot, †(a) = *forty legs*; (b) see quot. 1889; forty-footer, a forty-foot yacht; forty-knot, 'the *Alternanthera Achyrantha*, a prostrate amarantaceous weed of warm countries' (*Cent. Dict.*); forty legs, a popular or dialectal name of the centipede; †forty pence, ? a jocular designation for a servant who runs errands; forty-penny nail, a nail of such size that one thousand of them weigh forty pounds (see PENNY); †forty penny piece, a coin worth 40 pence Scots, i.e. 3½d. sterling; forty rod lightning, U.S. slang: see quot.; forty-rod whisky = prec.; also *ellipt.*; forty skewer: see FORTESCUE; forty-spot, the Tasmanian name for a bird, *Pardalotus quadragintus* (Gould, *Birds Austr.*, 1848); forty-tonner = B. 3.

1742 *New Hampshire Probate Records* III. 94. I give to my Grand Son... one 'Forty Acre Lot. 1860 in A. F. Ridgway *Voices from Auckland* 48 The Forty-acre men will ruin the country. 1869 J. MAY *Guide to Farming in N.Z.* 42 We were lately on the sections of two 'forty-acre men'. 1877 C. B. GEORGE *40 Yrs. on Rail* xi. 227, 'I live just over there', pointing to his house across a forty-acre lot. 1943 C. CROW *Ut. Amer. Customer* 185 There was no reason why a farmer could not plant a whole forty-acre field in wheat. 1673 E. BROWN *Trat. Europe* (1677) 17 An Indian Scelopendria, or 'Forty-foot. 1889 N. W. Linc. Gloss., Forty-foot, a right of forty-foot which the tenants of certain manors had over the soil of an adjoining manor. 1902 *Essex Inst. Hist. Coll.* XXXVIII. 256 The schooner-yacht 'Excelsior' was one of the earliest of the 'forty-footers'. 1697 *DAMPIER Voy.* i. xi. 320 Centapies, call'd by the English '40 Legs. 1750 G. HUGHES *Barbadoes* 89 The Forty-legs in Surinam are a great deal larger than what are bred in Barbados. 1866 *BROGDEN Provinc. Words Lincolnsh.*, Forty-legs, a centipede. 1616 *Englism.* for my Money Fijija, Farewell 'fortipence, goe seeke your Signor. 1769 in Hawkesworth *Joy* (1773) II

182 No nails less than *fortypenny were current. c1850 *Rudin. Navig.* (Weale) 135 *Nails of sorts* are, 4, 6, 8... and 40-penny nails. 1681 *COLVIL Whigs Supplic.* (1751) 58 Butter and cheese, and wool fleeces, For groats and 'Forty penny pieces. 1889 *FARMER Americanisms*, 'Forty Rod Lightning, whisky of the most villainous description, so called because humorously warranted to kill at forty rods. 1892 STEVENSON *Wrecker* 124 'Forty-rod whisky was administered by a proprietor as dirty as his beasts. 1863 W. H. RUSSELL *My Diary North & South* II. 11 Their cries for water were incessant to allay the internal fires caused by '40 rod' and '60 rod'. 1869 'MARK TWAIN' *Sks. New & Old* (1875) 70 Trading for forty-rod whiskey... has played the everlasting mischief. 1873 J. H. BEADLE *Undevel.* West xiii, The standard drink is whiskey—'stone fence', 'forty-rod', and 'tarantula-juice'. 1916 'ANZAC' *On Anzac Trail* v. 77 Shebangs [in Cairo] where they sell you whiskey that takes the lining of your throat down with it... a soothing liquid that ticks 'forty-rod', 'chained lightning', or 'Cape smoke' to the back of creation. 1919 Forty-rod [see BOOT-LEGGING]. 1948 *Daily Oklahoman* (Okla. City) 7 June 8/1 The mere possession of a few gills of forty rod is not counted as an ample offset to planned assassination. 1895 *Daily News* 11 June 2/4 For the second match, 'forty-tonners, three entered.

2. a. Substantial uses of the compound numerals (see A. 1): forty-eight, (a) a flowerpot of the third smallest size, of which there are 48 in a 'cast'; (b) pl. a sheet of a book folded into forty-eight leaves; (c) the forty-eight preludes and fugues of J. S. Bach; forty-eightmo, the size of a book in forty-eights; forty-four, (a) a forty-four gun ship; (b) a bicycle with a wheel 44 inches in diameter; †forty-nine, a 17th c. name for some kind of liquor; forty-one Hist., the Venetian council by whom the Doge was elected; forty-two *attrib.* in *forty-two man*, a man of the 42nd regiment.

1851 *GLENNY Handbk. Fl. Gard.* 227 They must be potted off into moderately small pots, say 'forty-eights. 1808 C. STOWER *Printers' Gram.* 192 A Half Sheet of Forty-eights, with Two Signatures. 1839 T. C. HANSARD *Print. & Type-Founding* 168 Forty-eights to be paid 2s. per sheet extra. 1873 H. C. BANISTER *Music* (1889) III. xxvi. 206 Bach's Fugue in C♯ Minor, No. 4 of the 48. 1902 *Westm. Gaz.* 29 Dec. 1/3 Those famous fugues and preludes known to all musicians as the 'Forty-Eight'. 1905 G. HUGHES *Handbk. Gt. Composers* vii. 45 At times the... counterpoint seems to spring from the interweaving of rhythmic figures rather than of melodic phrases—as in the prelude in F sharp major from the second book of the 'forty-eight'. 1888 C. T. JACOBI *Printers' Vocab.*, 'Forty-eightmo, a sheet of paper folded into forty-eight leaves. 1821 *BYRON To Murray* 7 Feb., The giant element... made our stout 'forty-four's... timbers creak again. 1884 *Century Mag.* Nov. 55/2 His hand resting... on the handle of his forty-four. 1692 A. P[ITCAIRNE] *Babbell* 2 (Mail. 1830) 5 Assist me all, ye Muses nyet! With a beer glass of 'forty-nine. 1723 *MESTON Knight* (1767) 21 A glass or two of forty-nine He can pull off before he dines. 1612 W. SHUTE tr. *Fougasses Venice* II. 481 The 'forty one being assembled... they... chose him Prince. 1816 *SCOTT Antiqu.* xliiii, Here comes an old 'forty-two man, who is a fitter maker for you than I am.

b. In abbreviated dates, as *forty-one*, *-two*, *-three*, etc., colloquially used to designate a year of the current or preceding century. Hence *forty-niner U.S.*, one of those who settled in California during the 'gold fever' about 1849.

1710 H. BEDFORD *Vind. Ch. Eng.* 1 The Spirit of Forty-one is reviving. 1853 *Mt. Echo* (Downieville, Calif.) 12 Feb. 1/1 Speeches were made by some of the worthy old forty-niners. 1887 *Council Bluffs Herald* (Iowa U.S.) 17 Jan., Running the 'pony express' in the exciting days of the '49-ers'. 1890 *BOLDREWOOD Miner's Right* xlii. 384 All old prospectors and 'forty-niners'.

forty-five. a. *the Forty-five*: the year 1745, and the Jacobite rebellion of that year. b. *Card-playing*. A game in which each trick counts five and the game is forty-five. Also *forty-fives*. c. A revolver of .45 calibre. U.S. d. A 45 r.p.m. 7-inch microgroove gramophone record; also written 45.

a. 1832 *SCOTT Redgauntlet* ch. xi, Ye have heard of a year they call the *forty-five*. 1895 D. MARSHALL in *Scot. Antiqu.* X. 77 In the 'Forty-five, Burleigh Castle... was garrisoned for King George.

b. 1875 WOOD & LAPHAM *Wait. Mail* 32 The others... gathered round the table to enjoy the Irish game of 'forty-fives'.

c. 1881 G. W. ROMSPERT *Western Echo* 285 We now used the six-shooters,—known as forty-fives,—and which were also deadly weapons. 1926 J. BLACK *You can't Win* iii. 21 He owned the latest pattern of repeating rifle and a couple of 'forty-fives'.

d. [1949 *Gramophone Nov.* 108/2 Single, double and treble speed motors fitted with heavy non-magnetic turntables, suitable for high fidelity reproduction of 78, 45 and 33 r.p.m. records.] 1950 *Ibid.* Dec. 162/2, I have had an opportunity of hearing the Rachmaninov No. 2 and the Tchaikovsky No. 1 Pianoforte Concerto on these 45 discs. 1968 R. CLAPPERTON *No News on Monday* vii. 82, I did a forty-five for Sunny Coast Records once that had as much impact as a handful of sand.

fortyish. a. Looking forty years old.

1821 *New Monthly Mag.* II. 324 A sort of Tom Shuffleton grown flat, staid, and fortyish.

foruh, obs. form of FURROW.

forum (f'ɔːrəm). [a. L. *forum*.]

1. *Rom. Ant.* The public place or market-place of a city. In ancient Rome the place of assembly for judicial and other public business

fortieth ('fɔ:tiθ), *a.* (sb.) Forms: *a.* feowertigoda, *erron.* -teoða (fem., neut. -ðe), 2. furteohthe, 3. fowertiðe, -tuðe, -tjzthe, fuwertuðe, fourtiand, 4. south. vourta3te, fourtith, -tied, 5. fowrtyde, fourth, 6. fourtheth, 7. fourthieth, 6-fortieth; 8. 6 fourthest. [OE. *feowertigoda* —prehistoric *fiwortigunpon-, corresponding to ON. *fertugonde*, -ande (Sw. *fyratonde*, Da. *fyrretvende*), *f.* FORTY on the analogy of TENTH.]

The rare 13th c. *fourtiand* is of Scandinavian origin. The verb *fourtyeth* is noteworthy as being formed with the same suffix as in the Low and High Ger. equivalents (Du. *veertigste*, OHG. *forzwigstot*; cf. also late Icel. *fertugasti*.)

The ordinal numeral belonging to the cardinal forty, the **fortieth man**: one man in forty. **fortieth part**: one of forty equal parts into which a quantity may be divided. Also *absol.* and *quasi*-*sb.*

1000 ÆLFRIC *Deut.* i. 3 On þam feowertigodan gearc. 1175 *Cott. Hom.* 229 Drihten þa an þa furteohthe deye his cristes astah to heofene. 1258 *Charter of Hen. III.*, in Tyrrell *Hist. Eng.* (1700) II. App. 25 In the two and fowertizthe gearc of ure crunninge. 1357 *Lay Folks Catech.* 152 The fourtieth day after that he ras — he stegh in-till heuen. c.1425 WYNTON *Cron.* VI. iv. 80 Of his kynryk þe fowrtyde yhere. 1502 *Ord. Crysten Men* (W. de W. 1506) i. vi. 32 The fourtieth day after his resurreccyon. 1590 SIR J. SMYTH *Dis. Weapons* in *Lett. Lit. Men* (Camden) 51 Of which, scarce the fortieth man escaped with life. 1611 *Bible Chron.* xxvi. 31 In the fourtieth yeere of the reigne of Dauid. a. 1631 DONNE *Love's Duty* 23 Ah! what doth it auaile To be the fortieth name in an entail? 1724 SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. 11 138 It is not above the fortieth part in value to the rest of Britain. 1758 S. HAYWARD *Serm.* v. 145 In that fourtieth of Israhah how is that Jehovah set forth? 1800 YOUNG in *Phil. Trans.* XCI. 55 A large card, divided into fortieths of an inch. 1855 MILMAN *Lit. Chr.* (1854) V. ix. vii. 324 All perlates [etc.] were summoned to contribute at least a fortieth to this end

fortifiable ('fɔ:tiəb(ə)l), *a.* [f. FORTIFY v. + -ABLE; cf. F. *fortifiable*.] That may be fortified.

1609 OVERBURY *Observ.* 17 *Proc. Wks.* (1856) 223 The countries every where fortifiable with water. 1755 in JOHNSON 1886 *Reikin Prætoris* I. vii. 207 The quadrilateral plan of my fortifiable dispositions.

***fortificate**, *v.* *Sc. Obs.* [f. ppl. stem of L. *fortificāre*.] = FORTIFY.

1560 ROLLAND *Crt. Venus* III. 188 The vther part gif thay fortificat In your contrair

fortification ('fɔ:ti'fikəʃən), [*a.* F. *fortification*, ad. L. *fortificātion-em*, n. of action f. *fortificā-re* to FORTIFY.]

1. The action of fortifying; in senses of the vb.

+1. Strengthening, corroboration, ratification.

1530-1 *Act 22 Hen. VIII.* c. 14 [They] have . . . procured many men to the practise of archerie to the greate increase and fortifications of the same outwarde realmes. 1557-75 *Diurn Occurr.* (Bannatyne) 122 To come to Edinburgh to subscribe the fortificatione of the kingis coronacion. 1563-87 *Foxe's A. & M.* (1684) III. 454 For the more fortification of that which hath been said. 1609 SKENE *Reg. Maj.*, *Forme of Proces* i. 16 The defender quha propounes the exception, for fortification therof, may propoun and reply, against the libell and reply. 1614 RALEIGH *Hist. World* II. (1634) 442 Much common good thereby likely to arise with mutual fortification of both those kingdoms. 1623 COWLEY in *Ellis Orig. Lett. Ser.* i. III. 155 His acties had not need of there fortification

2. *a.* The strengthening of wine with alcohol.

1885 *Pall Mall G.* 7 Sept. 5 2 Spirits exported to Spain for the fortification of native wines. 1893 *March Guard.* 19 May 54 The duty was raised to discourage the fortification of Spanish wines with coarse spirits.

b. The addition of nutrients, usually vitamins, to food.

1939 *Milbank Mem. Fund Q.* XVII. 241 (heading) The public health aspects of the fortification of foods with vitamins and minerals. 1941 *Lancet* 20 Dec. 773 1 The fortification must be considered solely in relation to the proven need for a given nutrient. 1967 *New Scientist* 9 Nov. 328 3 Fortification of cereals and cereal flours with vitamins offers the best immediate prospect for alleviating the world's shortage of protein foods

3. *Mil. a.* The action of fortifying or providing with defensive works.

1504 WHITEHOUSE tr. *Machiavel* (title) Certain waies of the ordering of Souldiers in battellar, & setting of battalies also plattes for fortification of Townes. 1882 STEVENSON *Nr. Arab. Nrs.* (1884) 129 He had no means of fortification, and lay open to attack.

b. The art or science of fortifying or constructing works of defence.

1642 HOWELL *For Trav.* (Arb.) 80 The art of Navigation and Fortification. 1688 CAPT. J. S. Fortification 23 Fortification, or Military Architecture, is a Science [etc.]. 1751 JOHNSON'S *Rambler* No. 103 ¶ 2 We range from city to city though we profess neither architecture nor fortification. 1828 J. M. SPEARMAN *Brit. Gunner* (ed. 2) 201 Fortification is divided into two parts, which are called Permanent or Field Fortification. 1879 *Cassell's Techn. Educ.* i. 212 The science is termed Fortification.

4. *a. Mil.* A defensive work; a wall, earthwork, tower, etc. Chiefly *collect. plural*.

1489 CAXTON *Foytes of A.* II. xxiv. 137 Upon every yate muste be made dyverse defences and fortifications. 1512 *Act 4 Hen. VIII.* c. 1 ¶ 1 To make Bulwerkes, Brayes, . . . and all other fortifications. 1604 SHAKS. *Oth.* III. v. 5 This Fortification (Gentlemen) shall we see? 1683 *Brit. Spec.* 18 Strong fortifications do secure thy Ports. 1719 DE FOE *Crusoe* i. iv. I . . . made me a Door to come out, on the Outside of my Isle or Fortification. 1794 SULLIVAN *View Nat.* II. 362 In the neighbourhood of Lexington, are the remains of two ancient fortifications. 1841 W. SPALDING *Italy & Its Isl.* i. 223 We find all the Seven Hills embraced within a fortification which the legendary history ascribes to Servius Tullius. 1863 LVELL *Antiq. Man.* 40 Extensive fortifications to protect them from their enemies.

b. Comb.: fortification-agate (see *quat.*).

1882 in CASSILL. 1892 *Dana's Syst. Min.* (ed. 6) 189 *Ruin-agate* or *Fortification-agate* is a variety with light to dark brown shades, showing, when polished, curious markings well described by the name.

c. transf. and fig. A means of defence.

1586 SIONEY *Arcaid.* i. x. 40b. The Statge thought it better to trust to the nimblenes of his feete then to the slender fortification of his lodging. 1653 WALTON *Angler* ii. 41 The gloves of an Otter are the best fortification for your hands against wet weather. 1656-7 BURTON'S *Diary* (1828) I. 363 That . . . is the best fortification for all honest men. 1742 *Land & Country Breve.* i. (ed. 4) 80 Horse-dung should be laid to the Windows as a Fortification against them [winds]. 1751 JOHNSON'S *Rambler* No. 26 ¶ 7 He was happy in this fortification [an arrangement of bolts and bars].

5. +*a. gen.* A means of strengthening. *Obs.*

1655 *Adet. in Cuiper's Pract. Physic.* It [aurum potable] is an Universal Fortification for all Complexions and ages. 1678 DRYDEN *Kind Keeper* iv. i. Go, provide . . . the Westphalia man, and other fortifications of nature.

b. spec. The strengthening timbers, etc. of a whaling vessel: see FORTIFY v. 1 *b.*

1820 SCORSBY *Acc. Arctic Reg.* II. 191 The next important part of the fortification is the pointers.

+*c. Gunnery.* The additional thickness of metal serving to strengthen certain portions of a cannon.

1626 CAPT. SMITH *Acrid Yng. Seamen* 32 To know her leuell point blank, her fortification, the differences of powder [etc.]. 1669 STURMY *Mariner's Mag.* v. 65 Canon-Powder is best . . . for in taking up much room it hath the greater length or fortification of metal about it in the Piece

fortified ('fɔ:tiəfd), *ppl. a.* [f. FORTIFY v. + -ED]. 1. Strengthened; provided with means of defence; protected with fortifications.

1538 ELYOT *Firmus*, stable, constant, well fortified. 1611 *Bible*, *Micah* vii. 12 He shal come . . . from the fortified cities. a. 1657 LOVELOCK *Poems* (1864) 234 Your days fare, a fortified toast. 1692 in CAPT. SMITH'S *Seaman's Gram.* II. xviii. 128 A Well Fortified Gun, hath her Metal at the Vent or Touch-hole as thick as her Diameter at the Bore. 1757 *York Courant* 18 Oct. A well-fortified vessel for the coasting trade, has been long wanted. 1790 *Black Fr. Rev.* Wks. V. 247 The Orsini and Vitelli in Italy, who used to sail from their fortified dens to the trader and traveller. 1861 M. PATTON *Ess.* (1889) I. 45 Three fortified and portullised gateways

2. *a.* Of food: supplied with added nutrients.

1910 C. WATSON *Food & Feeding* iv. 36 Milk fortified with starch. *Ibid.* viii. 139 A 'fortified cocoa' can be prepared as follows. . . cocoa . . . milk, sugar, water, cream. 1940 *Nature* 27 July 117 1 The white loaf would be fortified with a supplement of vitamin B₁ (aneurin) and a calcium salt. 1970 *Guardian* 7 Aug. 3 8 Modern bakers . . . have pushed out fortified bread to tickle the palate

b. Of wines: strengthened with alcohol. Cf. FORTIFY v. 4.

1906 *Harmsworth Encycl.* VIII. 6320 2 Madeira is a sherry type of fortified wine. 1954 R. W. SCHERRY *Plants for Man* xx. 525 2 Fortified wines are 'cocktail' or 'dessert' wines such as port, sherry, and vermouth, in which the alcoholic content is supplemented by the addition of brandy . . . to a strength unobtainable by simple fermentation. 1968 *Daily Tel.* (Colour Suppl.) 13 Dec. 41 1 So often in statistics no distinction is made between table wine, fortified wine, and aperitif wine.

fortifier ('fɔ:tiəfai(r)). [*f.* next + -ER¹.] One who or that which fortifies: *a.* One who constructs fortifications. *b.* One who or that which strengthens; a supporter, an upholder.

a. 1552 H. LOET, *Fortifier, munitor*. 1589 *Ive Fortis* 33 Admonishing the Fortifier to have the considerations before in them alleaged. 1590 HAKLEYTT *Voy.* II. i. 123 A fortifier, had deused a certaine kinde of ioynd boards, the which being caried of the souldiers, defended them from the shot of the Harquebuzers. 1602 CAREW *Cornwall* 149 The fortifier made his advantage of the commoditie, afforded by the ground. 1873 *Daily News* 7 Nov. 53 General Chabeau Latour, the fortifier of Paris.

b. c. 1565 LINDSEAY (PISCOTTE) *Chron. Scot.* (1728) 45 But also reproached the fortifiers and allowers of him in such wickedness. 1569 MURRAY 15 Oct. in H. CAMPBELL *Love Lett.* *Mary Q. Scots* App. 58 We wer constraint to nominate the said Quene . . . as maintainer and fortifier of the executours thairof. 1878 *Daily News* 11 Sept. 47 The opinion is at least a fortifier against adverse criticism. 1894 *Ibid.* 15 Feb. 5 3 An egg beaten in a very little whisky and water will be found an excellent fortifier.

fortify ('fɔ:tiʃai), *v.* [*ad.* F. *fortifier*, *ad.* L. *fortificāre*, *f. fortis* strong + -ficāre: see -FY.]

1. To make strong.

†fortune-tell *v.*, **a back-formation from prec.**
1798 *Faucher* *Merry W. Wks.* II. 168 Out of my doore, you fortune teller, you, I chide
1809 *CLEVELAND SHAKESPEARE* *W. IV.* (1697) 2 He tipples Palmetstry, and dines On all her Fortune-telling lines. **1881** *COLLIER* *Literary Digest* 100 The fortune teller.
But pretty fortune telling epics. **1795-1814** WORDSWORTH, *Excursion* VII. 88 Belongs they to the fortune-telling Tribe?

†for tunity. Obs. [*a.* OF. *tuntine* (ill) hap: see FORTUNE and -ITY. ? Fortune, hap. (Cf. INFORTUNITY.)]

†fortunes *n.* *Fortune* *xv*. s. Seving lull this fals fortune *1790* *THE SPOOKS* greates in hym so multiplied, That there for shame of his fortune, In no wyse would (he) n[or] longer be fortunat. **1614** *SALUTE Title Hon.* 365 By adventure he here . . . fortunat. *1790* *THE SPOOKS* greates in hym so multiplied, That there for shame of his fortune, In no wyse would (he) n[or] longer be fortunat. *1790* *THE SPOOKS* greates in hym so multiplied, That there for shame of his fortune, In no wyse would (he) n[or] longer be fortunat. *1790* *THE SPOOKS* greates in hym so multiplied, That there for shame of his fortune, In no wyse would (he) n[or] longer be fortunat.

†fortuneize. *v.* Obs. *rare.* [*i.* FOR TUNES sb. + -IZE.] *trans.* To regulate the fortunes of; to make fortune-telling. See **fortuneizing** ppl. *a.* fortune-telling.

1796 *SPENSER F.O. VI. ix.* 18. Fooles therefore They are who fortunes doe by vowes devide, Sith cance unto him selfe his fate may fortuneize. **1624** *GALIA Magastrom* 98 Else, how can the fortuneizing Genethlack foretell that the child shall live.

†fortunous. *a.* Obs. [*a.* OF. *fortunus*; see FORTUNE and -OUS.]

†. Pertaining to fortune or chance, fortuitous.

†1174 *CAELENB. Boeth.* i. pr. VI. 17 (Camb. MS.). I the
moved by fortuous force. *Ibid.* ii. pr. 19. (Camb.
MS.). The kind be fortunous and temporal.

†1175 *Fortunatus*. successful.

†1176 *HARDING Chron.* ix. iv. He wanne the felde in batell
fortunous.

†*fortunus. Obs.*—O. *Se* in some.

†1670 *Colles. Fortway.* a kind of Tournament or running a
course. *Fortway.* *Fortway.* (So in some later Dicts.)

forty (fērti), a. and th. Forms: *fēowertig*,
fēowertig, *Northumb.* *fēowertig*, *fēowertig*,
fēowertig, *fortig*, 2-3 *f(e)owertig*, 3 *fēowerti*,
f(e)uwerit, *fueri*, *forti*, *fourt*, 3-4 *fourt*,
thous. vourti, *y.* (3, *forti*), 3-8 *fourty*, 4 *fourty*, 5
fourth, *y.* 6 *fourtie*, *y.* 6 *fortie*, 6 *fourty*. [OE.
fēortig, *fēortig* (*fēowertig*, *OS.* *fēuwartig*,
fēuwerit, *MD.* *fēortig*, *fēortig*, *fēortig*,
OHG. *forzuz* (*MHG.* *vierzig*, *mod* *Gen*
vierzig), *ON.* *þorier* *þier*, *þurigtig*, *þurigtu* (*Sw.*
fyrty, *fyrty*, *Da.* *fyrtyty*). *Thes.* *fōdwr*
fyrtig. *See* FOUR and *fyrtety*.]

A. adj. a. The cardinal number equal to four
times ten, or to the figures 40, xl, or XL.

Also in comb. with numbers below ten (cardinal

[illegible]

c. *forty pence*: a customary amount for a wager. *forty winks* (colloq.): a short nap, esp. after dinner.

1597 HAMMAS *Carest wks. 46 Forty pence* *swaged vn* vn
matche of wrestling. 1611 SHAKS. Hen. VIII. i. iii. So How
tastes it is it better? forty pence. no. 1874 Punch 16. Nov.
2082 If a . . . man, after reading steadily through the Thorne-
needle Articles, were to take forty winks. 1889 Sixty Mary
Jan's Mems. 228 I'm good, and I want my forty winks.
1904 . . . d. = FORTIETH. Obs.

1559 *Homilies i. Good Wks. III. (1859) 58 Serces. . . were*
methe forty part so many among the Jewes, nor [etc.]

c. *the forty hours* (also qualifying *devotion*, etc.): *the 40 hours' arch*: in the R.C. Church, the
continuous exposition of the Host for forty
hours, used as an occasion of special devotion or
intercession.

1759 A. BUTLER *Lives Saints IV. 560 The saint . . . ordered*
the forty hours prayer for his recovery. 1839 K. H. Dugby

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 15th St.
New York, NY 10032

October 24, 1995

Dear friends:

In the Supplement for 1787 of the Gentleman's Magazine (London) there is an engraving of a 1786 New Jersey copper coin. I believe this is the first illustration of a coin struck in the independent United States. AS few American colonial coins were illustrated before the Revolution in English numismatic literature such as the Massachusetts and Maryland silver, Carolina Elephant tokens, etc. A German publication of 1784 illustrated a German translation of the 1776 Continental Currency Dollar in pewter but this coin is prior to US independence and not a true copy.

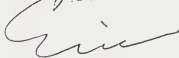
In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1786 there is an illustration of a 1785 Nova Constellatio coin which was struck in England. It was through the illustration of the latter coin that I stumbled upon the New Jersey illustration.

I tried to obtain the full volume of the last half of 1787 of Gentleman's Magazine but it is very difficult because comments on and text of the U.S. Constitution are there.

It is my pleasure to donate the disbound 1787 supplement to the ANS library in appreciation of the steady research help I receive from the ANS staff. This item was once in the Oxford public library but I acquired it from a dealer who assures me it came from a proper source.

I hope this item is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

Nov 22, 1995

Leslie Elam
Amer. Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St
New York City, NY 10032

Re: Illustrations for
NOVA CONSTELLATION
article.

Dear Les:

I am writing you instead of John because he is
away.

Frank is to send me black and white prints of all
negatives he has located and I hope they cross this letter.
I will then prepare titles and add more pictures to
complete the matter for publication.

I am fortunate to have been able to borrow from
Mr. Bressetti positive pictures of two fakes which I wish
to publish. These are enclosed, being each face of the
Mass Hist Soc. Dr. Edwards' fake on separate positives
and both faces of a struck copy of unknown origin on
one positive. Please have Frank make a black and white
negative of them and send a couple of prints of each to me.
I must return to Ken these things he has loaned me as
he has no extra copies.

Thank you for your customary cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jim

RECEIVED
OCT 24 1995



AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

October 20, 1995

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I have just finished reading your draft of the Nova Constellatio article. What a tour de force! It is a very exciting, masterly work.

Herewith some suggestions for polishing:

Page 2: I would end the sentence "My present opinion is that there is unequivocal evidence to the contrary..." after contrary so that there will be no implication that you are accusing Breen of "pedantic thinking". I would eliminate the sentence after that.

Page 4: I think the proper neo-Latin version would be, "Commentarii Novi de Constellationibus Novis." "Commentarii" is a perfectly good classical word - Cicero uses it.

Page 11: the question of "forty tons." In older English, "forty" could be used to express an indefinitely large number. For example, compare the King James Bible: "It rained for forty days and forty nights," which really means, "It rained for many days and many nights." The OED lists this usage. Compare Ancient Greek "myriad," which means both "a countless number" and "ten thousand." Or the way people often say "I have been asked an infinite number of times..." when they really mean "I have been asked a countless number of times..." (not the same thing). This is like those apocryphal primitive tribes who allegedly have three words for numbers: one, two, many. Interesting how one starts working on numismatics and then ends up doing philology and number theory - although you must be better on the latter than I am, since you went to MIT.

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9/20/95

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NUMISMATISTS
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123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019-2280

March 1, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

I enjoyed the phone conversation we had the other day. We surely explored a range of numismatics.

I am pleased to enclose a set of slides of the pattern Nova coinage. For the record, we understand that these will be used solely to illustrate in your talk to the ANS in October about the order of the lettering NOVA CONSTELLATIO. We have assured our client, after speaking with you, that these illustrations will not result in remarks or writings which would diminish the value or importance of these patterns.

I'm sure you will find these illustrations crisp and sharp and hopefully helpful in your discourse on which comes first, Nova or Constellatio.

All good wishes in your talk, we are, with warmest personal regards,

Very truly yours,

STACK'S

Harvey G. Stack

HGS/tf
encl.



TEL 212/582-2580

FAX 212/245-5018



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 6, 1995

Mr. Harvey G. Stack
Stack's
123 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019-2280

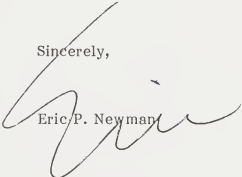
Dear Harvey:

The slides you sent of the Nova Constellatio group are beautiful and are very much appreciated.

Nothing could harm the reputation of those pieces which you photographed.

My best,

Sincerely,


Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

COAC 1995
FALL 1995 - 1996



COAC 1995
FALL 1995 - 1996

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 . INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

October 5, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Belatedly, I enclose a copy of the Program for COAC 1995, listing your topic and the session at which you are scheduled to speak. We use Kodak "Carousel" projectors, either dual or single; empty slide racks will be on hand for your convenience.

I note you will not join us. Let me know if your plans change.
As a speaker, your registration is complimentary, including lunch. I have also reserved a place for you at the Saturday night dinner; please let me know if your plans preclude joining us. The enclosed form may be used if you wish to register a guest for the conference or dinner. As well, contributions are always welcome.

We would appreciate having a copy of your paper suitable for publication at or shortly following the conference (in hard copy and on DOS-readable disk). You will receive an author copy of the published proceedings volume when issued.

Exhibits on the conference theme are always welcome to complement the special display which we shall mount from the ANS collection. Our intention is to open the COAC exhibit on October 28 and have it remain on view through January 20, 1996, the date of our winter public meeting. We would be pleased to have you participate as an exhibitor. The ANS has a supply of glass top cases for this purpose (21.5 x 33 inches interior) but you will have to supply your own display materials including labels. All objects on exhibit will be titled on loan to the ANS at values established by the lender and covered by our Fine Arts policy. Please contact John Kleeberg if you plan to mount an exhibit for COAC 1995.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie A. Elam
Leslie A. Elam
Director

Enc.

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OFFICE
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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

October 3, 1995

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

Thank you for the check for \$100 towards the Coinage of the Americas Conference. Leslie always lists the donors in the front of the published volume, and it is usually a rather select group. There are quite a few names who donate year after year, not large sums, but small sums given every single year are very welcome indeed. There are names which come up more years than not, such as Donald Scarinci, Edward Rudnicki, Emmett McDonald, and it is nice to have this support.

Sorry we won't see you at the dinner - but time spent with one's family is never time wasted.

All the best,


John M. Kleeberg

THE AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY



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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10032

September 30, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
% Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
PO Box 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Eric,

Thank you very much for your contribution of \$100.00 in support of COAC 1995. I am pleased to note that contributors will be listed in the Proceedings volume of this conference.

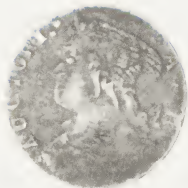
Sincerely yours,


Leslie A. Elam
Director

LAE/dm

1995
COINAGE OF THE AMERICAS
Conference

**Coinage of the American
Confederation Period**



PROGRAM

October 28, 1995

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Broadway at 155th Street, N.Y., NY 10032 212/234-3130 F:212/234-3381

Program

Saturday, October 28

9:00-9:45 Registration, coffee and rolls

9:45-10:00 WELCOME

Arthur A. Houghton III, President, ANS
Leslie A. Elam, Director, ANS

Philip L. Mossman, M.D., Conference Chairman

10:00-12:30 FIRST SESSION

Philip L. Mossman, "The Confederation: Its Times and Money"

Charles K. Smith, "George III Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence: A Statistical Study of Production and Distribution"

John M. Kleeberg, "The Shipwreck of the *Faithful Steward*: A 'Missing Link' in the British and Irish Exports of Counterfeit Halfpence"

Eric P. Newman, "New Comments on Nova Constellatio"

12:30-2:00 LUNCHEON

A buffet lunch will be served to registrants.
The exhibitions will be available for viewing.

2:00-5:00 SECOND SESSION

Pete Smith, "The Independent State of Vermont"

John Lorenzo, "The So-Called Atlee Broken A Letter Punch"

James A. Goudge, "The Copper Coinage of Connecticut"

Richard G. Doty, "Coinages that Might Have Been: Matthew Boulton and South Carolina"

George Fuld, "Washington Colonial Coinage"

5:00-6:00 RECEPTION

6:00 EXHIBITS CLOSE

7:00 DINNER (By Subscription)

Registration

The registration fee of \$25 includes admission to all sessions, buffet luncheon, and the afternoon reception. In addition, registrants may order one copy of the Conference *Proceedings* at the discount price of \$20 (\$25 list price). This book will be distributed to holders of the ANS 1996 Publications Subscription.

Registrants and guests are invited to subscribe for the Conference dinner Saturday evening (\$50 per person). Reservations are limited and will be recorded as received.

Exhibitions

Exhibits on the program theme will be on display in the Society's East Hall during the Conference. The general public is invited to view the exhibits during regular museum hours on Saturday. Registrants may remain in the exhibit hall until 6:00.

The American Numismatic Society will mount an exhibition featuring counterfeit halfpence of the period. In addition, important selections from private collections will be on view, much of which will remain on display through January 20, 1996.

Publications

The Conference *Proceedings* will be published in book form and distributed to holders of the ANS Publications Subscription for 1996. Registrants may order a single copy at the discount price of \$20; additional copies may be purchased at the list price of \$25.

Proceedings volumes of previous Coinage of the Americas Conferences are still available, offered at \$15 (Nos. 1-6) and \$25 (Nos. 7-10):

America's Copper Coinage, 1783-1857 (No. 1, 1984)

America's Currency, 1789-1866 (No. 2, 1985)

America's Silver Coinage, 1794-1891 (No. 3, 1986)

The Medal in America (No. 4, 1987)

The Coinage of El Perú (No. 5, 1988)

America's Gold Coinage (No. 6, 1989)

Money of Pre-Federal America (No. 7, 1991)

Canada's Money (No. 8, 1994)

America's Silver Dollars (No. 9, 1994)

The Token: America's Other Money (No. 10, 1995)

ANS COAC Standing Committee

Donald G. Partrick, Lloyd Neck, NY, *Chairman*

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Howard W. Herz, Minden, NV

Philip L. Mossman, M.D., Hampden, ME, *Conference Chairman*

Leslie A. Elam, ANS, *Conference Coordinator*

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

For Release:

Contact: Arlene P. Jacobs

September 22, 1995

**COINAGE OF THE AMERICAN CONFEDERATION PERIOD
THE 1995 ANS COINAGE OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE**

On Saturday, October 28, 1995, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the American Numismatic Society will present a day-long conference on "Coinage of the American Confederation Period" as part of our annual series of Coinage of the Americas Conferences dedicated to the coinage and currency of the Americas. The Conference will discuss the coinage issued during the period when the United States was governed by the Articles of Confederation (1781-1789). The Conference will take place at the Society's museum, Broadway at 155th Street, New York, NY.

The day will start with coffee and rolls at 9:00 a.m. registration.

Dr. Philip L. Mossman, the author of Money of the American Colonies and Confederation: A Numismatic, Economic, and Historical Correlation (New York, 1993) will preside as the Conference Chairman.

The morning session will present the following speakers:

Philip L. Mossman, "The Confederation: Its Times and Money"

Charles K. Smith, "George III Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence: A Statistical Study of Production and Distribution"

John M. Kleeberg, "The shipwreck of the Faithful Steward: a 'Missing Link' in the British and Irish Exports of Counterfeit Halfpence"

Eric P. Newman, "New Comments on Nova Constellatio Coppers"

From 12:30 to 2:00 there will be a buffet luncheon.



There will be exhibits on the program theme on display in the East Hall. The American Numismatic Society will mount a special exhibition featuring counterfeit halfpence made by Machins' Mills of Newburgh, New York, Brasher & Bailey of New York City, and Mould & Atlee of New York City. In addition, important selections from private collections will be on view.

The afternoon session will present the following speakers:

Pete Smith, "The Independent State of Vermont"

John Lorenzo, "The So-called Atlee Broken A Letter Punch"

James H. Goudge, "The Copper Coinage of Connecticut"

Richard G. Doty, "Coinages that might have been: Matthew Boulton and South Carolina"

George Fuld, "Washington Colonial Coinage"

There will be a reception at 5:00 p.m.

The registration fee of \$25 includes admission to the morning and afternoon sessions, buffet luncheon, and the post-conference reception.

Registrants and guests are invited to subscribe for the Conference dinner, that evening at Keen's Chophouse, for the cost of \$50.00 per person.

The ANS Coinage of the Americas Conference Standing Committee consists of the following members, who are responsible for the organization of this conference: Donald G. Partrick, Chairman; Richard G. Doty; David L. Ganz; Howard W. Herz; Allen F. Lovejoy; Eric P. Newman; Anthony J. Terranova; John M. Kleeberg; Leslie A. Elam.

The ANS is easily reached from midtown Manhattan by taking the IRT Number 1 line to 157th street; buses numbers 4 and 5 also stop on Broadway near the museum.

For registration information, contact Florence Donnelly at the American Numismatic Society, Broadway & 155th Street, New York, NY 10032; (212) 234-3130.

TELEPHONE
(212) 234-3130



TELE FAX
(212) 234-3361

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

September 27, 1995

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

This letter is just to say, in so many words, "ignore previous letter." I thought that the remark "they have adopted the vowel in preference to the consonant," does not refer to US as I had thought, but rather to the fact that the coin spells JUSTITIA with a U, rather than JVSTITIA. This is just to confirm our telephone conversation of today on this matter.

All the best,


John M. Kleeberg

CABLE ADDRESS
NUMISMAT NEW YORK



TELEPHONE
(212) 234 - 3130

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

September 26, 1995

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

My understanding of the "vowel in preference to the consonant" comment on p. 868 of the Gentleman's Magazine is that the coin has US rather than VS. It looks as though "WB" is being ultra-antiquarian (and not a little anti-American), and insisting that in Roman capitals V must be used, not U. At any rate, that is my understanding of it. If you look at the contemporary British halfpence, for example, you will note that they spell GEORGIVS with a V. And then there is that all too frequent telephone inquiry - "I have a silver dollar which is an error coin." "Oh really?" "Yes, it spells TRVST with a V instead of a U..."

I have had no luck tracking down those negatives - our photographer, Frank Deak, is on vacation this week. We may still have them, but I cannot tell. Normally we note down the negative number on the coin box, but judging by the boxes for the Novae Constellationes, we started doing that around 1967; there are no numbers which correspond to yours. Could you give me, instead, just a description of what you need - e.g. "Crosby 1-A," for example, or if you prefer, "1783 Nova"; or perhaps send me photocopies of the photographs you found.

The engraving of the New Jersey copper in the Gentleman's Magazine is very beautiful. It is not an exact copy, but it seems close enough to Maris 15-J that one can plausibly argue that that is the variety of the coin which the engraver had before him. I suppose I am right in supposing that 15-J is a fairly common variety?

All the best,


John M. Kleeberg

John Kleeberg

on NOAA CONSTELLATION
For the publication of my COAC talk, I need
black and white photos. You took them 30+
years ago. Please make 2 prints of each item
for me from your negatives.

Two negatives #6565 Top row first coin (obv + rev)

Two negatives #4182 Top row center coin (obv + rev)
Top row right coin (obv + rev)
Bottom row center coin (obv + rev)

One negative I think #6343 obv + rev.

#5893
and its mate
#5895 ←

Center row right end of each
Bottom row second from left of each

Two negatives
#4814

Bottom row left on each

If you can make ~~black & white~~ slides from these negatives
it would suit me. If you have the coins
in your collection then color slides would be
great.

Thank you

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

John M. Kleeberg
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032

September 8, 1994

Dear John:

Thanks for your help on the Nova matter.

In our collection we have somewhere the portion of Gentleman's Magazine with the Nova illustration, but I have to go mining to find it. You are right that I never wrote it up. I even exhibited it at the EAC meeting in St. Louis in April 1993.

There is another article on the Novas which was written by "Russell Rulau" in the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine for July 1972, pp. 598-609. I wrote much of the article and received acknowledgement galore. Rulau avoided putting his name on it because he was editor of the Scrapbook. It ought to be put into your card index under both our names as it had material which was then new.

I am glad Manville's work is recognized.

Regards,



Eric P. Newman

CABLE ADDRESS
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



TELEPHONE
MU 2-134 - 3135

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

August 30, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

This is just a reminder to let me know if you need slides of pieces from our collection for your talk at the Coinage of the Americas Conference in October.

All the best,


John M. Kleeberg

CABLE ADDRESS
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
(212) 234 - 3130



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

August 31, 1994

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I can find two articles by you about the Constellationes Novae: in the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine for January 1960 and in the Colonial Newsletter for October 1973, but in neither do you mention the illustration in the Gentleman's Magazine. (December 1783, vol. 53)

Yet I am sure you must have known about it by the 1990s, because I remember learning about it from you. So far as I can tell, you knew about it, but have never got around to publishing it.

All the best,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Kleeberg
Associate Curator of
Modern Coins

P.S. The I found the article through Harrington Monville's bibliography of British + Irish Numismatic periodicals. ~~He has~~
We have just made Monville a fellow of the Society - a well-deserved nomination.

1990-1995
 College of the American Confederate Period

?

Chas W
 207 827-5735
 575 College Ave
 Orono ME 04473

2PN to call

2PN to call Michael McLaughlin
 Raymond Williamson.

Nova Constellatio

Jan 1995

1783 *Scirpus Triumpho* letter punches are identical to Nova Const 1783 Variety 1-A and at least 30 English and Irish counterfeit 1/2 d - according to Ringo

Ringo points out:

Marie 72-3 has 1478 Garrett is over a
1783 Nova 1-A

1788 Connecticut. over 1785 Novas
are

3-B

4-A

4-R

5-B(2)

and others

12(2)-C

12(2)-E

No Vermonts are over Novas

Newman Collection has

Conn 1787 13-D over Nova 4-D

1788 3(2)-B(2) over Nova ~~5-E~~ 5-E

1788 4(1)-B(2) over Nova 4-D

1788 5-B(2) over Nova 4-D

1788 12(2)-C over Nova 'no variety ident'

Vt 1787 12 over Nova 4-D

1787 12 over Nova 4-D

1788 18 over 1783 Irish c/t 1/2 d

1788 25 over 1782 Irish c/t 1/2 d

N.J. None over Novas, but over many others

Another American comment indicating that NOVA CONSTELLATIO coppers were not in circulation by August 13, 1785 ~~it~~ was published in the ^{Tribune} Providence and County Journal of that date urging "a very ingenious gentleman" (Benjamin Dudley) ~~to be authorized by Congress to cut coinage in~~. Dudley who had ~~cut the piece~~ coined the 1783 NOVA CONSTELLATIO patterns) ~~to be authorized by Congress to prepare coinage~~ ^{in Philadelphia} prepare a mint & Dudley was advertising at that same time in the Newport Mercury the opening of ~~his~~ ^{his} clock, watch and instrument business in Newport. ~~While this is minting suggestion related to coinage other~~ ^{than copper, it must have been tempered as to copper if} ~~the~~ ^{the} the proponent had seen the NOVA CONSTELLATIO copper coinage in circulation.

not used
because unrelated to
copper

IMMUNE COLUMB

On Monies, Coins, Weights and Measures)

by John Beale Bordley

Phila 1784

P. 15

~~#~~ In describing the copper coins circulating in America
P. 15 there is included in the list:

U.S.

A.D.

Grav

1783

145

This is a specific reference to the Nova Const copper
and is called "U.S." by its central legend.

~~The American initiated~~

John Beale Bordley's publication in 1789 of
on Monies, Coins, Weights and Measures, Proposed
for the United States of America, described the
NOVA CONSTELLATIC copper ~~new~~ coinage in a
list of the weights of circulating coppers by
using the term "U.S.", giving the date as 1783
~~and giving the~~ and the weight as 145 grains.

See Messman PP 297-301 for ^{thorough} _{a study} of this treatise.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mrs. Elizabeth Nuxoll
The Papers of Robert Morris
Queens College, CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597

January 9, 1995

Dear Elizabeth:

As you know I was in Mexico when you sent me your fascinating letter of December 13, 1994. I am exceedingly grateful for it and am glad you asked me some questions. I am going to answer the letter in installments as I just returned.

The 5 mill copper Nova Constellatio piece was sent to Curwen in England in 1784 as you know. It turned up in a French Collection in 1977 and was then sold by an English dealer to an American and then resold to Ford. That shows that the 5 mill was in England in 1784. Ford recently consigned the set of four denominations for sale through Stacks.

There are three genuine examples of the 100 mill pieces, two with ornamented edges and one with a plain edge. All three of these 100 mill pieces are also located. Fortunately we own the one with the plain edge. The additional evidence for three being struck is an entry dated May 11, 1784 in Jefferson's account book, namely, "left with C. Thomson as specimens of coins 1.8 D." That can only mean one 1000 mill, one 500 mill and three 100 mill coins. I believe it is proper to assume that 1000 mills were intended to represent D or dollar.

The auction history of each is not clear. Two of the 100 mill pieces first showed up in Britain. One showed up at T.F. Cloud pawnshop, 207 High Holborn St., London in 1882-4. It was sent to America (probably by L.E. Shorthouse) for resale by Woodward in his April 2, 1885 auction, lot 1064, where it did not sell. It ended up in Waldo Newcomer's collection. Another was auctioned from the Murdoch collection in England on July 21, 1903, lot 905 and was sold to Parmelee, then Ellsworth, then Garrett, all in America. Which one was in a T. Chapman auction in Edinburgh on October 21, 1884, lot 131 is not clear. At a later date Garrett obtained Newcomer's coin and sold off the Murdoch coin which is now ours. The coins are not well described in the Chapman auction to distinguish one from the other.

The third 100 mill piece was said by Stacks to have been acquired by an Italian visitor in Philadelphia and taken back to Europe in the 1920's. It was consigned by his descendants to Stacks for auction on May 1, 1991 and sold for \$72,500. Apparently it stayed in America until the 20th century.

You already may know this data which is somewhat summarized in Coin World for January 1, 1980 and January 13, 1992 and elsewhere.

There is another silver piece which has no denomination but

is the size of the 500 mill and has one die side identical to the 500 mill. It may be a trial piece. It was part of the Garrett collection.

I hope the above indicates that several of the original Nova silver pieces Morris had struck in America were sent to England and no doubt were used for the design of the production Nova copper coinage even if a drawing was sent. When the two 100 mill pieces were sent could be 1783, 1784, or 1785 whenever the plan for the production copper coinage was developed. There would be no purpose in sending them earlier.

See next installment. Thanks again for all your data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Eric P. Newman

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll
Papers of Robert Morris
Queens College CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597

November 7, 1994

Dear Elizabeth:

As to your inquiry on November 1, 1994 about something new on copper Nova Constellatio coinage dated 1783 and 1785 I have rechecked my data which was published in 1960 and 1962 and I did some additional work.

I am still convinced it was all struck in 1785 and received it first publicity on issuance in early 1786 in England. It could not have been circulated before that because the subsequent American newspaper comments would have so indicated. It was a fresh item in 1786 in English newspapers and was copied in American newspapers after that.

Michael Hodder in a June 1994 article (copy enclosed) speculates about the matter. In my opinion he is trying to create doubt and has interpreted the known facts to undermine prior conclusions without adding any new facts. He challenges facts as not being conclusive enough. My comments are in handwriting on it.

There has been no numismatic publicity that Constable & Co. or Constable, Rucker & Co. could have been the source of the copper Nova Constellatio coinage rather than Gouveneur Morris personally. The partnership records would be nice to find but you indicate that the records for that period are not located even though other extensive partnership records are at the New York Public Library.

Would you therefore send me the detail on the formation of the Constable & Co. partnership, the actual date of formation, the percentages of the partners, the capital and duties of the partners, the date of the change of name to Constable Rucker & Co. and the closest date and places that you have for Rucker going to Europe. If you have a copy of the partnership agreement or a copy of a summary of it that would be adequate for me.

I do have one really new exciting fact. Michael Ringo, a friend of mine and a professional numismatist, has determined that the letter punches used to make the dies on a copper half pence size token dated 1783 known as GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO are the same as used on the NOVA CONSTELLATIO pieces. The GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO is definitely English in origin and by virtue of its fine workmanship. It may be a fence sitting piece because either George III or George Washington was going to be the winner. It has a railing of 13 bars. Its date of striking is not known other than our assumption from the date it bears. This information about the punches should not be revealed publicly until permission is given by Ringo.

Thank you for writing and for our subsequent talk on the matter. I should call you The Source.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

enclosure

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 23, 1992

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll
The Papers of Robert Morris
Queens College CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-0904

Dear Elizabeth:

From our recent telephone conversation, I am convinced that the purchase and circulation of the Nova Constellatio copper coinage can be located in the papers of William Constable & Co. or Constable, Rucker & Co. You indicate that the manuscripts or microfilm of them are available in New York. The question is to determine what period to look for appropriate documents. I find that several London newspapers published a dispatch from America about them in March 1786. A copy of those dispatches of which I am aware is enclosed. The content of the dispatch was corrected in March 1786 in London papers.

The London news insert was copied in May 1786 by newspapers in New York, Boston, New Haven, Hartford and Newport, and perhaps elsewhere. This indicates possible knowledge of the copper circulation in New York in May 1786, but no knowledge of the circulation in the other cities.

The obvious conclusion is that the coppers were in circulation by February 1786 in order for someone to send a dispatch to England. The method of distributing these coppers in New York would have been to sell them to merchants at a discount from their circulating value so that the merchants could make a profit putting them into circulation. There could be invoices or correspondence covering the sale of such copper coinage to distributors for several months prior to February 1786.

As to when these coppers were ordered from England, there would have to be a adequate lead time to order them to cut the dies, obtain copper, strike them, and ship them to America. This could have taken place at any period during 1785 and possibly late 1784.

It would be helpful to know the exact date when the William Constable & Co. partnership was formed, and the exact date when the name of the partnership was changed to Constable, Rucker & Co., and the date when William Rucker went to England.

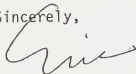
2.

It would seem to me that the Constable records would have to have material concerning this matter in them, unless there was an effort to conceal the identification of the project by calling them hardware, copper, or coppers.

This is a matter of major historical importance in my opinion and should be located if possible. Naturally, I am biased from a numismatic point of view, but it seems to be a major event in the business life of Robert Morris and Gouverneur Morris as well.

If I can be of further help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

.Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

The Papers of Robert Morris

November 1, 1994

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

We are about to publish volume 8 of The Papers of Robert Morris and wish to use as an illustration the blank pages of Morris's six-month notes issued in 1783. I was unable to locate the glossies of the notes and remembered I had sent some to you for use in your book. According to my records I sent you some glossies in February 1989; I do not have anything in my file indicating they were returned. Could you check your files to see if you still have the glossies, and, if so, return them to us as soon as possible. Otherwise, I shall have to arrange to have new ones prepared by the National Archives.

We hope you are well and still enjoying your travels and other adventures. Was your paper on the dollar sign ever published? If so, we would love to have a copy.

Did you ever discover more on the origins of the Nova Constellatio coppers? We have finally been working in the Constable papers, but most of the records for the period when the coins were created are missing.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

Directors
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Rec'd 7/8 631 5309

Amphipenny, a Poetical Description of an Oak.

4,000,000. intended by the company to be published, under the authority of the House of Commons.

"That the said company be enabled to raise a further sum, by adding 800,000. to their capital stock of 3,200,000. so as to make the capital in future 4,000,000.; and that such additions be made by opening a subscription to that amount, after the rate of 1000. for every 1000." To be reported on Monday.

This brought on a conversation, in which Mr. Sheridan and some other members entered largely into the state of the company's affairs. After which, the question was put, and carried without a division. The House was then resumed, and adjourned.

(To be continued.)

MR. URBAN,

OR. 21.

OBSERVING in your last Magazine a representation of a copper, the coin of the renowned Protector, I beg leave to transmit to the public, through the same very entertaining channel, a description of a *halfpenny* lately struck by the United States of America, which, although of a late date, will, I presume, be thought no less curious, being the first of the kind I have seen in this kingdom. Considering the principles that actuated the revolt of the English colonies in America, and that which brought about the protectorship in place of a royal government, the representations of the two coins would have been proper companions, had they met on the *same plate*; but, should you favour my halfpenny with a place in your next*, I shall esteem it no less fortunate to find them both in the *same volume* of your repository.

On one side, encircled within a wreath of *LAUREL*, exceedingly well executed, are the letters *U S* in cypher, surrounded with an inscription, *LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA*; date, 1783. On the reverse, in the center, is a *CONSTELLATION*, from which issue *THIRTEEN* illuminated rays, and between each ray is a small *STAR*, expressive of the *THIRTEEN UNITED STATES*; round these rays and the stars is the following inscription: *NOVA CONSTELLATIO*. The new American halfpenny is in weight as three to two of the English coin.

The United States, as appears by the

inscriptions on the front of this coin, have erected the standard of *liberty* and justice. But, from what we have lately heard concerning American politics, both one and the other, I fear, are known only by name throughout that vast, and once flourishing, continent.

Yours, &c. W. B.

P. S. It is a little remarkable that, contrary to antiquarian principles, and the practice of all other states and kingdoms, they have adopted the *word* in preference to the *conjonant*.

DESCRIPTIONS OF VEGETABLES, FROM THE ROMAN POETS.

IT has been remarked by various critics, that modern poets have in general been much inferior to the ancient, in the truth and accuracy of their descriptions of natural objects. The verifiers of later ages, deriving their art merely from imitation, have fallen into a kind of slavish philology in their diction, which, while it cuts off all novelty of imagery, excludes the writer to poetical merit, from the application of epithets and descriptions according to memory, or the rules of measure, rather than the observation of nature. Those, on the other hand, who were nearer to the original fountains of poetical ornament, seldom fail to point objects in their genuine colours, even though they may be unskilful in the employment and disposition of them. Of this we have a striking instance in the fables of Homer, which, taken separately, are always just and lively pictures, though frequently they have little resemblance to the object to which they are applied. The number of these drawn from the vegetable creation is very small, while Virgil, and the other Roman Poets, profandy from living in a more cultivated state of society, were particularly fond of introducing trees and other plants into the imagery of their pieces. From a peculiar attention to this subject, I became so struck with the beauty and accuracy with which they had painted some of my favourite objects, that I was led to collect the passages, and to form a sort of connected poetical descriptions by their names. Some of these it is my intention to offer to the readers of this periodical work. I shall begin with

QUERCUS—THE OAK,

one of the noblest objects in the rural landscape, and a fine image for comparison on various heroic occasions.

The *height* of the oak is referred to by

by Virgil in describing the appearance of the forest, he says,

Q. Arce quercus, a Coniferous, fig.

So on some mountain of the aerolines Or spreading oak

And probal same quality of particular as lightning

De celo tallas

And heaven's oak

The wide strongly painted following path Scubi magna J Ingens tenax Where trees tall

Ovid, on the oak

— patula Jove's far-extended an epinet lush paraphrase is,

And falling acorns of the storage arms of an oak — velut in fano

Quercum.

Several poets the *barbarus* in the long phemys apply call her — during an — far more

And Virgil splitting an oak read without

Quercidam Sinebat.

Tyrrhus, who's Left the huge

It's power from, from to which it is presented in the

Velut annu

Alnus dormi

where inter fo

* See it in plate II. fig. 9.

8vo; and there are editions of some of the pieces in that size; but then several of the other pieces also are not to be had separate; and some that are, will be found to be extravagantly dear. For instance: if all Xenophon's Works were published in the same size that five pieces (commonly called Opuscula) are by Simpson, they would be swelled to 12 volumes; and the price would be 3l. or 3l. 12s.

If three more volumes were added to Hutchinson's two, to be sold separate, as his are; they would together make an excellent edition of all Xenophon's Works, in Greek and Latin, at a moderate price; and any person might either buy the whole, or any particular part, as he found it convenient.

There is indeed an edition in five volumes, 8vo, by Wells; but it is scarce and dear, (from 2l. 12s. 6d. to 3l. 13s. 6d.) and it is only accidentally that any particular volume is to be had separate.

There is an edition also in four vols. 8vo, by Ernesti; but of this I know nothing more than that all the volumes are sold together.

What is most wanted, in my opinion, is an 8vo edition of the Hellen. or Grecian History. And if any person of real learning will undertake an edition of that kind, the writer of this will endeavour to save him some trouble by collating for him an old edition or two; and his address shall be communicated to you as soon as he hears that a proper person has undertaken so useful a work.

J. B.

MR. URBAN,

Oct. 17.

IN answer to the enquiry of your correspondent GRYPHON relative to the case in the COMMON PLEAS, *Workedge versus Manning*, Easter Term, 26 Geo. III. let me be permitted to assure him, and others who may wish to be satisfied what the extent of the determination really was. It was a *general demurrer* to a *special plea*: the plaintiff, in support of his demurrer, excepted that *the defendant did not appear on the record to have been a parishioner of the place in which he gleaned at the time when he exercised that claim*. The COURT was of opinion, that *the defendant could not maintain his justification, this averment being omitted*. And they declared, that upon this ground they allowed the demurrer of the plaintiff: with an express caution that their judgement was not to be understood to have decided any thing

on the general question. So that it was only to determine, that, in the opinion of the judges on that case, *the right of gleaning is confined to the parishioners of the place in which the lands are*. So far, and no farther, it may be a precedent in future cases. The claim that was meant to have been tried in Manning's case, was, *Whether the defendant was justified in gleaning BARLEY*? The plaintiff, however, thought it expedient not to take the sense of the COURT as once upon the true ground; but to avail himself of the defendant's not having introduced (so as the COURT could take notice of it) the fact of his being a parishioner* at the time when he gleaned: for such was the fact. And had the plaintiff demurred *specialy*, to the special plea of the defendant, it would not have been too late for Manning to have made this averment a part of the record, and the plaintiff must have admitted it: and then the judgement might have been taken on the *real merits* of the question.

In the mean time, *whether BARLEY be of right gleanable*, rests upon its conformity to the general law and usage of gleaning.

With regard to *CLEANING* in general, the sentiments of Sir MATTHEW HALE (one of the first of names for integrity, benevolence, professional learning, and general knowledge) may be seen in *TRIALS PER PAS.* vol. 1. cap. 15, in these words. *The law gives licence to the poor to glean BY THE GENERAL CUSTOM OF ENGLAND: but this licence must be pleaded specialy, and cannot be given in evidence as an evidence*. See, in approbation of this doctrine, I mean of the *general right of gleaning*, GILBERT's *Law of Evidence* (4th edition, p. 256, tit. Trespas); and the *Commentaries on the Law of ENGLAND*, book iii. ch. 12. With three names of such respectability in support of the general right, there is not one decision against it: and it has an usage more ancient, more extensive, and of more venerable commencement, than almost any other custom can plead.

C. L.

MR. URBAN,

Nov. 30.

IN the description of the American halfpenny, p. 863, no notice is taken of the central object, which in the plate has the resemblance of an eye. Might not the artist design to insinuate, that this new constellation of thirteen stars was formed by Providence?

W. & D.

* Of Tinworth, near Bury, Suff.

MR.

NOVA COMMENTS ON
NOVA CON~~STELLATIO~~ CONPERE

OR
Comments Nova on
Constellatio Nova Coffee

How
about

Nova Comments
on

~~CONPERE NO~~
CONSTERNATION NOVA over
CONSTELLATIO NOVA
CONSIDERATIO NOVA
CONCENTRATIO NOVA
COMMENTARIO NOVA

Uses of Nova

Nova Scotia
Nova Eborac
Nova Caesarea
Nova ~~Eborac~~ Eboraca Columbia ~~Exetacion~~
on the Brashee Doubloon

Obverse 3 of 1783¹ and obverse 1 of 1785² are from the identical die which is well known due to the misspelling the word CON~~STELATIO~~.
 omission of the letter L in misspelling ~~the word~~ CON~~STELATIO~~.
 It is also of interest as to that die that there is no trace of ~~the~~ die rust on the 1785 coins struck from that die. This tends to corroborate the improbability of a time gap of ^{as much as two} years between the striking of the pieces dated 1783 and 1785.

The ~~1783~~^{containing} dies ~~with~~ the date 1783 do not have ET between the words LIBERTAS and JUSTITIA as the dies dated 1785 do.

The 1785 Counterfeit has

12 rays } which were easier to ~~engrave~~
 12 stars } lay out for engraving.
 46 ~~39~~ ~~prongs~~ leaves, with ~~their stems~~ ^{as does the 1786 piece but the leaf joiners} pointing counterclockwise in their rotation instead of clockwise as all genuine ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces} do.
 E is omitted in LIBRTAS
 The 8 in the date is unfinished
 Two stops between TIO...NOVA
 Breen #

46 leaves (same ^{number as in the} 1786 counterfeit) but leaf joiners point counterclockwise in their ~~rotation~~ ^{circle} instead of clockwise as all genuine ^{pieces} and the 1786 counterfeits do.

NOVA CANET

Block U.S. - Conform - 42 - Brill then proof, perfect

Baldern collection

1786 Nova

No. 7512
Nova

{ Parity Brass
Parity Copper

defunct
2 calms

ford only

In 1785 Nova Const

Die B is struck
with 3 long
before it is used
with 1

1-B always comes broken
3-D shows various stages
of breaks

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

LIBERTAS * JUSTITIA • 1783.

5 higher than U in U.S. 21 pairs of leaves

LIBERTAS * JUSTITIA • 1783

U larger than S in U.S. 24 pairs of leaves

LIBERTAS * JUSTITIA • 1783.

23 pairs of small leaves close to stem

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1783

Small late. Prolonged S. 32 pairs of small leaves. Script US

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785.

Possible confusion between letters and numbers
36 pairs of leaves. Leaves under, 75
joined by underbreak.

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785.

Possible confusion between letters and numbers
30 pairs of leaves. Script US

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785.

29 pairs of leaves. Script US

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785.

26 Pairs of leaves

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785.

23 pairs of leaves. ^{pointing clockwise} Under lettering. Part 8

LIBERTAS ET JUSTITIA • 1785

13 pairs of leaves. US in block letters

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

N in NOVA tilted to right and touching
ray. The damage extending from
last O.

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Ray points to right base of A

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Curviform rays.

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Clear space between each line in copy ~~copy~~

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Two points on left base. Ray points
to left base of N.

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Blunt rays. Ray points to right
base of A.

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

Blunt rays. Ray points to left
base of A.

all
the
lines
are
the
same

• NOVA • CONSTELLATIO •

Circle between each copy

NOVA • CONSTELLATIO ★

C line and line close to O



FIG. 1: GEORGIUS TRIUMPHO, EARLY DIE STATE



FIG. 2: 1783 NOVA CONSTELLATIO, CROSBY 1-A



FIG. 3: 1775 COUNTERFEIT BRITISH HALFPENNY

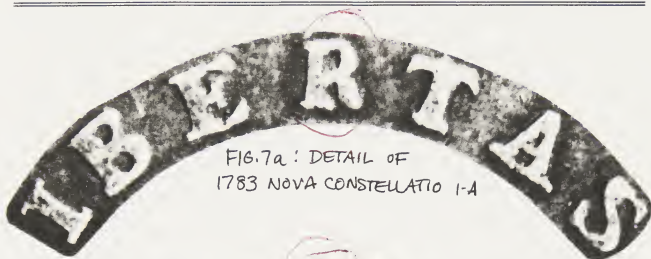


FIG. 7a: DETAIL OF
1783 NOVA CONSTELLATIO 1-A

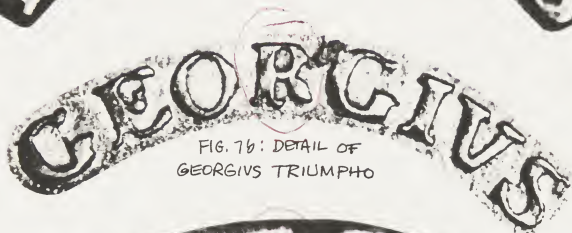


FIG. 7b: DETAIL OF
GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO

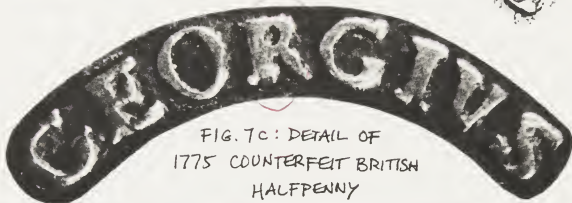


FIG. 7c: DETAIL OF
1775 COUNTERFEIT BRITISH
HALFPENNY



FIG. 8a: 1783 NOVA 1-A DATE

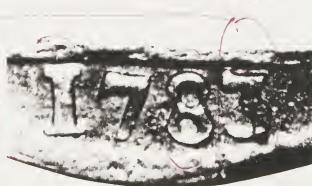


FIG. 8b: GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO DATE



FIG. 8c: BRITISH COUNTERFEIT 1/2d. DATE

8/15/95

In my own article on CG 1785 and

I used in the first paragraph

CONSTELLATIO NOVA.

I made this change to that form

on 9/9/87. I must have been

influenced by ~~some writing perhaps~~
~~the Normal side~~ Breen etc in 1974 CWL.

Check my AWS publication for
the detail,

10/17/87

Handwritten signature

Aug 19

Aug 19

at 1785

Vlach p 77

(nothing in first edition)

Early American Coins 2nd Edition
Johnson City, NY 1965

Re: Noos

The engraving of the dies has been attributed to Thomas Wyon. This attribution is valid because of the identical letter punches used by him on other early American coinage, the dies of which are known to have been engraved by him.

March
July, 1960

Letter of William Brewster, DD. (Circled March 1895) Vol I

p. 75 Q. A cipher was circulated with the apparent
authority of Brewster. It states with an eye in the center, &
between the rays other stars in number 13. Interpreting
constellations now, on the reverse a somewhat
is enclosed the cipher [U.S.]. Inscription identical
at Quebec. 1785.

Sept 26,
1787

(Get date)

See also publication
in AIN
July 1872
p. 20

[2AN Memoranda]

The New Haven Gazette and the Connecticut
Magazine. May 4, 1786 Vol I No 12 p. 96

New Haven May 4

We are informed, that at Greenwich in England,
forty tons of copper is now coming into haffence,
for the use of the American States: on one side
an Eye of Providence, with thirteen Stars; the
reverse U.S. for United States

New York

May 19, 1881

Dear Sir,

We are informed that it is

proposed

to send for the American

on our side, in regard to the

the States.

THE MASSACHUSETTS CENTINEL

Wednesday May 10, 1786

Boston, Wednesday May 10

It is said, that 40 tons of copper, have been coined in half-pence, at Greenwich, in England, for American circulation. Device — on one side, an Eye of Providence, and thirteen Stars — The reverse, U.S. — Better these than that bane to honesty,
paper money.

Connecticut Current

Hartford

May 15, 1786

p. 2 Col 3

"
Boston, May 10.

It is said that 40 tons of copper
have been coined in half pence, at Greenwich,
in England, for American circulation. Since
on one side, an Eye, Providence and thirteen stars.
The reverse, U. S. ~~Better~~ ^{Better} these than that
born to honesty, paper money."

The Historical Novels
Vol. VI (and Series) p 118
Feb 1869

First of news article only

NEW YORK DAILY ADVERTISER, MAY 20, 1869:

My Dear Sir,

The London Morning Chronicle of the 16th of March, has the following article:-
"A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, "Libertas et Justitia, &c." was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New-York, many tons were struck from this die, and many from another, the one now in circulation in America, as counters, it will, once are in England."

(The inscription, "Nova Constellatio," does not appear in this article, and the above paragraph is the only reference to coinage in the May 20th issue of the newspaper.)

Worcester, ar. 16

A large quantity of Counterfeit Copper Coin, manufactured in this and the neighboring States, has lately been in circulation in this Commonwealth, but it is now generally refused a currency by the trading part of the community; nearly one-half of the copper coin in this country for twenty or thirty years past has been of a base kind manufactured at Birmingham in England; however, it crept into circulation, and did, until the late additional quantity above-mentioned made its appearance, pass for the same value as those which are genuine.

New York, Connecticut, and Vermont have authorized a person in each of those States to coin copper; numbers of them are now in circulation; they are in general well made, and of good copper, those of New York in particular. Was a person authorized in this State for the same purpose it would undoubtedly prevent the manufacturing of those made of base metal.

"London, March 27.

The American Congress have lately made a copper coinage, which is now in general circulation. One side of the half-penny bears the circular inscription, *Libertas et Justitia*; round a central cypher U. S. On the reverse is a sun rising amidst Thirteen Stars, circularly inscribed *Constitutio Nova*."

Massachusetts Centinel, Boston, 1786, No. 47.

The Essex Journal and Gloucestershire
and New Hampshire General Advertiser
(all one newspaper)

Mar 29, 1786

Nova Const patterns

A J N 1869 Vol IV p 35

by George A. Ward "The Journal and letters of Samuel Currier" fourth edition ^{Boston} 1869
he was a loyalist refugee in England

p. 445
entry 7
"

May 15, 1784

Mr Bartlett presented me with a medal struck in Philadelphia: on a round compartment stands, "U. S. . . . 5 . . . 1783"; round, "Libertas et Justitia"; on the other side, in the ^{centre} center, an eye surrounded by a glory; the whole encompassed by thirteen stars, — with the legend, "Nova Constellatio"

It is pointed out that the use of the word medal indicates it is not copper. It ^{could be} probably the 500 mill price. The error may be the 5 was for 500. say the article.

I believe it is just an error in writing

In London (England) newspapers as below:-

The Morning Herald No.1677 Sat. March 11 1786 p.3 centre of col.1:-

The Public Advertiser No.16164 Tues. March 14 1786 p.3 foot of col.2:-

" The American Congress have lately made a copper coinage, which is now in general circulation; one side of the halfpenny bears this circular inscription "Libertas et Justitia;" round a central cypher U.S. On the reverse is a Sun rising amidst Thirteen Stars, circularly inscribed "Constellatio nova!" Not the Georgium Sidus. "

The Morning Chronicle, and London Advertiser No.5250 Tues. March 14 1786 p.3 near top of col.3 :-

Inserted by
" The American Congress have lately made a copper coinage, which is now in general circulation; one side of the halfpenny bears this circular inscription, "Libertas et Justitia;" round a central cypher U.S. - On the reverse is a sun rising amidst thirteen stars, circularly-inscribed "Constellatio nova." "

The London Chronicle vol.LIX No.4574 Sat.-Tues. March 11-14 1786
page 242 centre of central col.:-

" The American Congress have lately made a copper coinage, which is now in general circulation; one side of the halfpenny bears this circular inscription, "Libertas et Justitia;" round a central cypher U.S. On the reverse is a sun rising amidst Thirteen Stars, circularly inscribed "Constellatio nova." "

The Morning Chronicle, and London Advertiser No.5252 Thurs. March 16 1786 p.3 top right corner.

" A correspondent observes, that the paragraph which has lately appeared in several papers, respecting a copper coinage in America, is not true. The piece spoken of, bearing the inscription, "Libertas et Justitia, &c." was not made in America, nor by the direction of Congress. It was coined at Birmingham, by the order of a merchant in New York. Many tons were struck from this dye, and many from another; and they are now in circulation in America, as counterfeit half pence are in England. "

Nil further found in period March 1 thru 21 in above 4 newspapers; nor any trace whatever in The General Advertiser in same period, in particular in the extracts that it printed from its despatches from Boston (N.E.) and New York. The London Gazette being an official journal did not carry general news or gossip. The Morning Herald not scanned as British Museum possesses only a few numbers for 1786; saw

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip L. Mossman
26 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444

January 22, 1996

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your comments and corrections on the Nova Constellatio piece. All have been included except putting the final quotation mark after the period or comma which is not part of the quote. I think this affects the accuracy of the quote and I hope you will forgive me for not using it even if it may be technically proper.

Your comments on the Vermont-Immune poor quality and on the planchet weight deviation on 1783 and 1785 Novas are appreciated, but they belong in your opus. *I added them also.*

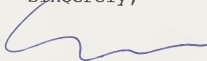
I am glad you are trying to straighten out enthusiast Lorenzo. He really needed it.

I just completed going over Fuld's manuscript on Washingtoniana and had to make quantities of changes and corrections in its 126 pages. He may never speak to me again but I had to try to bring its quality up to a better level. He often cannot locate the support for some of his statements. He assumes everyone will believe whatever he believes. He thinks faster than he writes and doesn't review his own writing as you and I do.

We had a marvelous trip to the Arabian Gulf.

Thrive on your 2/7th retirement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Newman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric P. Newman

*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
January 16, 1996*

Dear Eric,

Please forgive the long delay in my response to your letter of November 10th with the enclosed final draft of your paper. I've been busier than a one-armed paper hanger and am just now getting caught up. In fact, I have semi-retired and am only working five days a week now.

Much of my available time has been consumed since November with John Lorenzo's paper, helping him get it into shape. First of all, he wrote it on a computer program that no one else could read. Jim Spilman helped us to render it compatible with standard DOS equipment and then I had to translate it onto Microsoft Word. I helped him understand the "bifurcation" phenomenon and its influence on the lower serifs of certain letters. Also I discussed with him the fact that the depth to which a punch is sunk into a die will influence the final appearance of the letter on the struck coin. The important thing is that he is trying very hard to do a good job and has a great deal of enthusiasm. I certainly do not want appear to be too critical, but then again, accuracy is vital.

I read your paper over several times and cannot recommend any significant changes. It is great! I did make some suggestions regarding punctuation to keep it compatible with the style that the ANS uses. I think it is University of Chicago or something like that. Primarily the suggestions I made involved commas in the footnotes between the city of publication and the date. For dates in the text, when the date is used in an adjectival sense, there is no comma, e.g. "the August 16, 1786 edition of ..." Quotes at the end of a sentence are outside the period. I did suggest a few word changes.

I noted two comments. I found that the weights of the 1783 and 1785 Novas were different in that the standard deviation of the 1783s was much higher than for 1785. (Table 21, page 210.) This would suggest that the 1783 planchets were not prepared with the same degree of care or that the technology improved between the two emissions. This is just an observation whose importance is uncertain.

The other point which has always bothered me is the condition of Ryder 1. This obverse is so primitive that it is hard to accept it as a serious product of a conscientious mintmaster. You just mention this in passing on your page 24 and I'm just commenting more in the line of a free association.

I understand that you are helping George Fuld with his Washingtonia paper. I know nothing about the subject and certainly will appreciate your input, guidance, and critical review.

*Happy New Year! Best regards
Phil*

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip L. Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444

November 10, 1995

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your very supportive comments on my COAC paper. I have endeavored to refine it since its oral presentation and enclose a copy for you to chop up (and I don't mean mutton chop). Please look for any errors or ambiguities etc. as I truly welcome them like forty. Your instruction is a modified Thurber - get it written and get it right.

I have to have black and white pictures taken for the illustrations and that will take some time. The slides were in color and cannot be so used.

I have given my suggestions to Smith and Fuld on their papers which were submitted to me for the purpose. Smith will be unhappy that I changed halfpennies to halfpence when he used halfpenny for singular.

I will have no trouble furnishing a computer disk copy which is compatible with Leslie's machine.

I am glad you recognize the 1995 COAC as a success. You made it so.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
November 5, 1995*

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your contribution to the success of the 11th Coinage of the Americas Conference. Again the numismatic world could depend on you for bringing to the light of day more long forgotten facts. We missed you at the dinner where they served mutton chops, which, judging by the size, must have come from an elephant.

The several contradictory, confusing, newspaper commentaries of the 1780s you quoted reminded me of Thurber's anecdote concerning careless publishing. He ends his story with the moral, "Don't get it right, get it written!" You did a great job in sorting out fact from fiction. Your paper went over *like forty* ! You have produced another classic.

Now that the conference is over, the task is now at hand for me to arrange the final manuscripts for publication. I'm sure that you are very familiar with that sort of duty. The benefit is enormous since by means of the published *Conference Proceedings*, the entire program can be shared with those who were unable to attend. I hope that you can forward to me by early December your completed draft. It would be helpful if I could have both a paper copy and computer disk copy on a DOS program, WordPerfect, Word, or ASCII, if possible. If you have any questions about the compatibility of your program with the ANS equipment, Les Elam can be of help.

Again, many thanks for your generous donation of time and effort to the COAC.

Sincerely yours,



Philip L. Mossman, M.D.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dr. Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444 - 1009

October 31, 1995

Dear Phil:

I congratulate you on the outstanding success of the 1995 COAC event and its impact on numismatic scholarship. It was stimulated to a great extent by your book on the subject. The attendance showed the enthusiasm and the attentiveness of the listeners was unusually evident. It accomplished for ANS what ANS truly stands for.

The publication of the results will reach a broader audience on a permanent basis and I believe you and the ANS team should edit what is turned in or find a tactful way to indicate there are other points of view on some matters. I heard some of these thoughts expressed afterward.

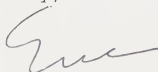
For example the idea that bifurcated serifs on the bottom of perimeter lettering are cut in the dies (and not on the top) is considered unsound and the phenomenon is merely the result of restricted outward extrusion of metal during striking without a collar. Also a broken A punch would produce a lump not a depression.

The need for comparison by superimposition of transparencies should be pointed out.

Many of the pictures shown with the presentations were of such poor quality that they must be redone for publication. I suggest a notice go out to all the writers to be sure that their pictures are fine enough for publication.

I was glad to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Eric P. Newman

*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
October 4, 1995*

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I have a great idea inspired from Dean Jonathan Swift's adventures of Captain Lemuel Gulliver and the drama of the *Big-Endians* vs. the *Little-Endians*. We should start two rival organizations, the *Front-Endians* and the *Rear-Endians*, according to one's prejudice regarding the proper placement of the word *Nova*! So the *Front-Endians* would be the supporters of *Nova Constellatio* and the *Rear-Endians* would advocate *Constellatio Nova*. I must admit that I'm a *Front-Indian* and support the cause of *Nova Constellatio*!

Enclosed please see the discussion provided by a teaching colleague of my brother-in-law. I have not yet heard from my other Latin consultant from the University of Maine but I'm satisfied with this scholarly rendition. I'm just sorry that I jumped on Walter's band wagon so quickly and changed my book accordingly. You may use any of this material you wish for your COAC talk. If you do not wish to introduce it there, I'd consider writing a little informational piece for the CNL.

October 28 is fast approaching. I expect that you have received my paper by now. If you have any comments, please be in touch.

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Eric: This is the request I sent out to the Latin consultant and enclosed is the reply:

The enclosed picture is of an early copper token coinage of the Confederation period minted in England from 1783 to 1785 and sent over to the United States to supply the newly freed colonies with an adequate minor coinage. The legend refers to the United States as the New Constellation, but what is not evident is the correct word order of the legend although the coins have been traditionally called the *Nova Constellatio* series. On the reverse side, the central eye of Providence has an embryonic eyebrow over it such that the inscription seems to start with CONSTELLATIO with the NOVA following beneath. My question is: regardless of the placement of the words in the legend in relationship to other elements of the design, what is the correct word order, NOVA CONSTELLATIO or CONSTELLATIO NOVA? To confuse the interpretation is the fact that an exceedingly rare silver coinage exists with the same legends. On these coins the NOVA definitely precedes the CONSTELLATIO and the pair of words are followed by a large space. In this circumstance, the engravers certainly meant to imply the word order, NOVA CONSTELLATIO. Although the copper coinage has typically been called NOVA CONSTELLATIO this nomenclature has been challenged since in relationship to the design, the CONSTELLATIO appears on top and seems to be the first word. Engravers made many mistakes and one cannot always go by what appeared on the finished coin; you will see on the 1785 copper they misspelled *Constelatio*. I am aware of many names of places where the Nova precedes the noun: **Nova Scotia, Nova Anglia, Novus Portus, Nova Eboraca, Nova Caesarea**, but an exception is **Terra Nova**. The Nova Constellatio is definitely in reference to a place. So my dilemma, what would be the correct Latin word order all other things being equal? Can you help?

In October I am to be the chairman of a symposium at the American Numismatic Society in New York on coinages of the Confederation period of our history. The NOVA CONSTELLATIO alias CONSTELLATIO NOVA copper coinages will be discussed and thus I'm interested in a resolution or at least to be able to present the arguments *pro* and *con*. This has not only an academic but also a practical importance since it is appropriate to know the correct name intended by authors of the coinage. In my book I was persuaded to follow the CONSTELLATIO NOVA argument, but I think I was mistaken. Your thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Philip L. Mossman, M.D.

cc: Nova Constellatio (New Hampshire)

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE AT POTSDAM
44 PIERREPONT AVENUE
POTSDAM, NEW YORK 13676-2294



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
AND COMMUNICATION

(315) 267-2005 FAX (315) 267-3256

S · U · N · Y
POTSDAM
ST. LAWRENCE ACADEMY • 1816

Professor John Ranlett
Department of History

Dear John:

Thanks for the compliment about my knowledge of Latin; I would it were anywhere near what I would like it to be.

You raise an interesting question about Latin word order. As you no doubt know, it is generally believed that the original Indo-European sequence was Noun + Adjective. My initial reaction was to say that the classical order was that, with the exception of demonstratives and cardinal numbers and variations for emphasis. I thought it might be a good idea to check appropriate sections of traditional grammars and to supplement that search with a review of novus in my Oxford Latin Dictionary, which I brought in from home.

I'm attaching photocopies of the relevant sections of the Gildersleeve and Lodge grammar and the Allen and Greenough I had handy. If one is looking for a definitive answer, it is not there--G & L's 'Rule III,' stating that an adjective "usually precedes, but often follows," at least has a note admitting that in "the classical period the adjective is more often used after its substantive." I think you'll find most people's instinctive response will be in accord with that. Allen and Greenough's phrase, "tend to precede," strikes me as funny more than anything else.

You might be interested in knowing that novus generally does not have a comparative form in Classical Latin, but does have a superlative. St. Jerome's Vulgate in the fourth century consistently uses the superlative (in) novissima die or in novissimis diebus 'on the last day' or 'in the last days' before its noun.

Some classical examples of both, gleaned from the OLD, are ante lunam novam 'before the new moon' (Cicero) but novus annus 'new year'; res novae (lit., 'new things,') and motus novae (lit., 'new motions'), both of which translate as 'constitutional changes' or 'sedition activities,' depending on context; lac novum 'fresh milk'; sanguis novus 'newly spilt blood'; and nova nupta 'recent marriage.'

I can't resist ending this chat with Novus Ordo S(a)eculorum, from the Great Seal of the United States, 'New Order of the Ages.' There is also Novus Ordo Missae, used as the official name of the Roman Catholic Latin Rite Mass introduced by Pope Paul VI. When dealing with constellations, I prefer the adjective preceding; the reason is simply that it "sounds better."

Ed. Alfonsini

facti ipse Dēmōsthēns, *Cf. C. Or.*, 29, 101 (552, n. 1). Descriptus (erat) populus cēnsu, ordinibus, actibus, *C. Leg.*, III. 19, 44 (397). Intrā moenis sunt hostēs, *S., C.*, 52, 35 (477).

REMARK.—The modifiers of the predicate stand in the order of their importance. The following arrangement is common:

1. Place, Time, Cause, or Means. 2. Indirect Object. 3. Direct Object. 4. Adverb. 5. Verb.

NOTE.—The postponement of the subject is rare and a ways or definite reason in the classical period; later it becomes a mannerism, especial y in the elder PLINY; to a less degree in NEPOS and LIVY.

675. RULE II.—Interrogative Sentences begin with the interrogative, subordinate clauses with the leading particle or relative.

Quis cum diligit quem metuat? *C., Lucr.*, 15, 53 (629). Postquam Caesar pervēnit obsidēs poposcit, *CARR., B.G.*, I. 27, 3 (591). Si spiritum dicit vivit, *C., Inv.*, I. 46, 86 (595). Qui timēre dēserint odiōse incipient, *TAC., Agr.*, 32 (567).

Rhetorical position:

[Nātūram] si sequēmur dūcem, nunquam aberrābimus, *C., Off.*, I. 28, 100 (595). De futūrīs rēbus est semper difficile est dicere, tamen interdum coniectūrā possis accēdere, *C., Fam.*, VI. 4, 1 (604). [Catō] mirārī sē sēbat quod nōn ridēret haruspex, haruspice cum vidisset, *C., Div.*, II. 24, 51 (567).

676. RULE III.—An Adjective usually precedes, but often follows, the word to which it belongs; a dependent Genitive usually follows the governing word; so too does a word in Apposition.

Saepe magna indolēs virtūtis priusquam rei publicae prōdesse potuisset extincta est, *C., Ph.*, v. 17, 47 (577). Sēnsuum oculōrum praecipit animus, *QUINT., VI.*, 2, 6 (540).

Rhetorical position:

[Isocrates] queritur plūs honoris corporum quam animōrum virtūtibus dari, *QUINT., III.*, 8, 9 (542, n.). [Ager], cum multōs annōs quōvis, uberiorēs efferre frūgēs solet, *C., Br.*, 4, 16 (567). Verēmur nē parum hō liber mellis et absinthii multum habēre videatur, *QUINT., III.*, 1, 5 (550).

REMARKS.—1. The demonstrative pronouns regularly precede; the possessives regularly follow.

Verēmur nē hic liber absinthii multum habēre videatur, *QUINT., III.*, 1, 5 (550). Torquātus filium suum necārī iussit, *S., C.*, 52, 30 (540).

Rhetorical position:

Recordāre tempus illud, cum pater Cūriō maerēs iacēbat in lectō, *C., Ph.*, II. 18, 45 (580). Ōsculatur tigrim suus cūstōs, *SEN., E.M.*, 85, 41 (309, 2).

2. Ordinals regularly follow, Cardinals regularly precede the substantive.

3. Many expressions have become fixed formulae: so titles, proper names, and the like; see 288.

Facinus est vincere civem Rōmānum, *C., Verr.*, v. 66, 170 (535).

4. The titles *rēx, imperator, etc.*, frequently precede the proper name with which they are in apposition.

5. New modifiers of either element may be inserted, prefixed, or added:

Catōnem vidī in bibliothēcā sedentem multis circumfūsum Stōicōrum libris, *C., Fin.*, III. 2, 7 (536). Saepe magna indolēs virtūtis priusquam rei publicae prōdesse potuisset extincta est, *C., Ph.*, v. 17, 47 (577). At vidēte hominis intolerābilem audāciam, *C., Dom.*, 44, 115 (488). (Aristidēs) interfuit pūgnae nāvālī apud Salaminā, *NEP.*, III. 2, 1.

NOTES.—1. The tendency in Latin was to reverse the Indo-Germanic rule by which an attributive adjective and a dependent Genitive preceded the governing word. But in early Latin the adjective still holds its place more often before its substantive, while the Genitive has already succumbed for the most part to the tendency. In the classical period the adjective is more often used after its substantive. But neither position can be strictly called rhetorical. The same is true of the possessive pronoun.

2. The original force of a following adjective or Genitive was restrictive or appositional, while, when it preceded, it formed a close compound with its substantive; thus, *bonus homō, a good man* (one idea); *homō bonus, a man* (one idea) *who is good* (another idea). In classical Latin this distinction is no longer inevitable, though it is often essential.

677. RULE IV.—Adverbs are commonly put next to their verb (before it when it ends a sentence), and immediately before their adjective or adverb.

Zēnōnem cum Athēnis essēm audiebam frequenter . . . , *C., N.D.*, I. 21, 59 (585). Caedi discipulōs minimē volui, *QUINT.*, I. 3, 13 (257). Vix cuiquam persuādēbātur Græciā omni cēssūrōs (Rōmānōs), *L., XXXIII.*, 3, 2 (546, n. 1). [Risus] interdum ita repente erumpit ut eum cupientēs tendere nequeamus, *C., Or.*, II. 58, 235 (600).

Rhetorical positions:

[Iram] bone Ennius initium dixit Insāniae, *C., Tusc.*, IV. 23, 52 (440). Saepe magna indolēs virtūtis priusquam rei publicae prōdesse potuisset extincta est, *C., Ph.*, v. 17, 47 (577).

REMARKS.—1. *Ferē, paene, prope*, usually follow:

Nēmō ferē saltat sōbrius nisi forte Insānit, *C., Mur.*, 6, 13 (561, n. 4).

2. Negatives always precede, see 448.

ALLEN + GREENOUGH, NEW LATIN GRAMMAR (1916 EDITION)

396

ORDER OF WORDS

[§ 598]

[§ 608]

ORDER OF WORDS

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598. The main rules for the Order of Words are as follows:—

a. In any phrase the determining and most significant word comes first:—

1. Adjective and Noun:—

omnis hominē decet, *every man ought* (opposed to some who do not).
Lūcius Catilīna nobili genere nātus fuit, *magna vi et animi et corporis, sed ingenio malo privatus* (Sall. Cat. 5), *Lucius Catiline was born of a noble family, with great force of mind and body, but with a nature that was evil and depraved.* [Here the adjectives in the first part are the emphatic and important words, no antithesis between the nouns being as yet thought of; but in the second branch the noun is meant to be opposed to those before mentioned, and immediately takes the prominent place, as is seen by the natural English emphasis, thus making a *chiasmus*.]

2. Word with modifying case:—

quid magis Epaminōndam, Thebanōrum imperatōrem, quam victoriæ Thebanōrum cōsultare decuit (Inv. I. 69), *what should Epaminondas, commander of the Thebans, have aimed at more than the victory of the Thebans?*
lacrima nihil citius areſcit (id. I. 109), *nothing dries quicker than a tear.*
nemō ferā laudis cupidus (De Or. I. 14), *hardly any one desirous of glory* (cf. Manil. 7, *avidū laudis, eager for glory*).

b. Numeral adjectives, adjectives of quantity, demonstrative, relative, and interrogative pronouns and adverbs, tend to precede the word or words to which they belong:—

cum aliqua perturbatiōe (Off. I. 137), *with some disturbance.*
hōc ūnō praestamus (De Or. I. 32), *in this one thing we excel.*
ceterae ferē artes, the other arts.

NOTE.—This happens because such words are usually emphatic; but often the words connected with them are more so, and in such cases the pronouns etc. yield the emphatic place:—

causa aliqua (De Or. I. 250), *some case.*
stilis ille tuus (id. I. 257), *that well-known style of yours* (in an antithesis; see passage). [It is idiomatic in this sense and position.]
Romam quo apportata sunt (Verr. iv. 121), *what were carried to Rome* (in contrast to what remained at Syracusae).

c. When *sum* is used as the Substantive verb (§ 284. b), it regularly stands first, or at any rate before its subject:—

est viri magni pūnre sūntis (Off. I. 82), *it is the duty of a great man to punish the guilty.*

So called from the Greek letter X (*chi*), on account of the criss-cross arrangement of the words. Thus, $\frac{X}{a}$ (see f. below).

d. The verb may come first, or have a prominent position, either (1) because the *idea* in it is emphatic; or (2) because the *predication* of the whole statement is emphatic; or (3) the *tense* only may be emphatic:—

(1) dicebat idem Cotta (Off. ii. 69), *Cotta used to say the same thing* (opposed to others' boasting).

idem fecit adulescens M. Antonius (id. ii. 49), *the same thing was done by Mark Antony in his youth.* [Opposed to dixi j. before.]

facis amice (Lacl. 9), *you act kindly.* [Cf. amice i. e., you are very kind (you act kindly).]

(2) propensior benignitas esse debēbit in calamitōsis nisi forte erant digni calamitate (Off. ii. 62), *liberality ought to be readier toward the unfortunate unless perchance they really deserve their misfortune.*

praesertim cum scribat (Panaetius) (id. iii. 8), *especially when he does say* (in his books). [Opposed to something omitted by him.]

(3) finimus Trōes, fuit Ilium (Aen. ii. 325), *we have ceased to be Trojans, Troy is now no more.*

loquor autem de communibus amicitiis (Off. iii. 45), *but I am speaking now of common friendships.*

e. Often the connection of two emphatic phrases is brought about by giving the precedence to the most prominent part of each and leaving the less prominent parts to follow in inconspicuous places:—

plūres solent esse causae (Off. I. 28), *there are usually several reasons.*
quos amissionis civis, eos Mārtis vis percūit (Marc. 17), *what fellow-citizens we have lost, have been stricken down by the violence of war.*

maximas tibi omnes gratias agimus (id. 33), *we all render you the warmest thanks.*

haec res finius est propria Caesaris (id. 11), *this exploit belongs to Caesar alone.*

obligationēs etiā nō nunquam incidunt necessāriae (Off. I. 136), *occasions for revere also sometimes occur which are unavoidable.*

f. Antithesis between two pairs of ideas is indicated by placing the pairs either (1) in the same order (*anaphora*) or (2) in exactly the opposite order (*chiasmus*):—

(1) rērum cōpia verborum cōpia gignit (De Or. iii. 125), *abundance of matter produces copiousness of expression.*

(2) leges supplicii improbis afflicti, defendunt ac tuerentur bonis (Leg. ii. 13), *the laws visit punishments upon the wicked, but the good they defend and protect.*

NOTE.—Chiasmus is very common in Latin, and often seems in fact the more inartificial construction. In an artless narrative one might hear, "The women were all drowned, they saved the men."

nō igitur utilitatem amicitia sed utilitas anicitiam consecuta est (Lacl. I. 14), *it is not then that friendship has followed upon advantage, but advantage upon friendship.* [Here the chiasmus is only grammatical, the ideas being in the parallel order.] (See also p. 386: longinquum, maxime, proximi.)

*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
March 26, 1995*

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thanks do much for your recent letters. I had neglected to send you a corrected copy of the *Report of the Board of Treasury* Enclosed is the update. I think that all your changes are correct, which goes to show that your eyesight is better than mine!

Your letter of February 27th amused me since I'd been thinking about NOVAS all day. I arrived home and found your letter waiting for me. The silver patterns seems definitely to be *Nova Constellatio*. I have made arrangements for two classic professors to review the problem and see what they think. In most instances, the NOVA comes first: Nova Anglia, Novus Portus, Nova Eboraca, Nova Cæsarea, but Terra Nova! So let's see what the experts have to say. I'll be in touch as soon as I receive a reply.

I hope all is well. Best regards,

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil", is written below the typed name "Philip L. Mossman, M.D." in the letterhead.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

February 27, 1995

Dear Phil:

To add to my February 8, 1995 letter to you about CONSTELLATIO NOVA I find that I inadvertently was the one who started the word reversal. I had again quoted the English newspapers of 1786 (which put it in reversed) in CNL, Oct. 1973, p. 422. Breen seized upon the disclosure (CNL, Sept. 1974, p. 453-5), used an eye brow, a counterfeit and a poetic license and swallowed it all the way to his encyclopedia. Even Curwen's diary of 1784 uses Nova Constellatio.

So (Mia Culpa, Mia Culpa) I have the duty to straighten it out. If you agree you may wish to change your diagram of coinage interlock as well as the text and index of your wonderful book. Incidentally Hodder saw a copy of the February 8, 1995 letter I sent you and has just written me that he has determined that NOVA CONSTELLATIO is correct, but makes no reference to his extended usage of the reverse order. He bases his opinion on the use of NOVA CONSTELLATIO by Robert Morris.

I am glad you don't live in EBORAC NOVA or I might use 44440 as your zip code.

What do you now think ?

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

February 8, 1995

Dear Phil:

I submit a suggestion for removal of your use of CONSTELLATIO NOVA in your book and replacing it with NOVA CONSTELLATIO. I may be wrong in my opinion but I think the reversal springs from attempted erudition by Breen and followed by a few others.

The 100 and 500 unit 1783 silver patterns and 5 unit copper pattern are definitely NOVA CONSTELLATIO in that order with a very large space before the beginning and after the end of the expression. There is ornamentation or insignia in that space except on the 100 mills and there is no ornamentation or extra space between NOVA and CONSTELLATIO in any of those three denominations.

The 1000 unit silver pattern is not quite as obvious because the open space between words is about equal. However, an ornament is in the space after CONSTELLATIO and before NOVA and there is nothing in the space between NOVA and CONSTELLATIO. The ornament is clearly a stop just as the ornaments are stops on the 5 unit and 500 unit pieces. On the LIBERTAS JUSTITIA side of the patterns there are stops between each word because the words express separate thoughts.

The 1783 and 1785 normal copper coinage has no enlarged spaces indicating any order of words and whenever there are ornaments or stops they are placed uniformly between the words so that order cannot be determined from them.

Crosby and all the early writers and catalogers use only NOVA CONSTELLATIO. What right does anyone have to change what is obviously clear in the patterns and subsequent writing just to show what proper Latin should have been. It is stilted as I see it to reverse the established order to be correct grammatically and incorrect numismatically.

AVON OITALLETSNOC is the mirror image and might be used for Avon Products but that is as much reversal as I can recommend.

I hope restoring the original order seems like a sound NOVA idea.


Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444 - 1009

February 6, 1995

Dear Phil:

This is a partial answer to the part of page 3 of your letter dated January 22, 1995 as to your money of account discovery.

I find that the use of colonial moneys of account lasted to some extent until small Spanish money was withdrawn from American circulation in 1857.

The one real or one bit was known as the York shilling in New York and elsewhere (8 shillings to the dollar) as you may know. Pine Tree shillings in the coin charts and manuals were quoted in the 1850's at 16 cents (1 shilling lawful money). The straightening out of Revolutionary War arguments over finance matters was still going on 50 years after independence. Old deeds and long term contracts were still in money of account language and one had to be familiar with them. State coppers were still in circulation at a specific number to the shilling rather than so many to the cent. Many people were still very much alive who had used moneys of account before 1815.

It is no wonder that one had to know how to calculate values in money of account. That was a good school exercise as well. In addition those that revise books usually do not take out material.

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

February 6, 1995

Dear Phil:

As to the Vermont Nova style designs you mention in point 4 I do not understand why you say that prior to 1785 the New York engravers of the Vermonts were familiar with the Nova design.

I think that the Vermonts, being first authorized by law on June 15, 1785 were not struck until after October 15, 1785 when the weight was reduced by law. The die makers probably would have seen the Novas during the period, rather than prior to 1785. The fact that Vermont varieties have both blunt and pointed rays just as the 1783 dated Novas did (the 1785 blunt rays was a 1783 left over) makes it a reasonable certainty that the Vermont die makers saw the Nova coinage themselves, not any drawing. The drawing would not have had blunt rays because the silver Novas didn't. Thus if several varieties of the Novas first came to America about the middle of 1785 the Vermont die makers (who were in New York) had adequate time to copy them.

Thus I feel that the Vermont situation does not contradict the 1785 introduction of the 1783 dated Novas into America.

Your speculative point 5 as to the extra star on the 1783 Novas is cute but so subtle if true that no one would know it. A quatrefoil word separator is used on one die, a 5 pointed star on another and also period. The stars between the rays are 6 pointed. Vermont wanting equal status would not want to be a pointless member of the union (I'll bet that pun is new).

Maybe I should take on Novas at the coming COAC as I have a surprise fact.

Yours,



Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

February 6, 1995

Dear Phil:

I would like to comment on line 2 and 3 and point 17 of your letter of January 22, 1995 concerning quantity of Novas.

I agree that the existence of three pairs of dies for 1783 and others for 1785 makes the one die statement inaccurate. What was meant probably is one style of die as no one then cared about die differences if they looked alike.

Newton is early 18th century. By the 1780s the process of coining had drastically improved. The screw press needed only a one quarter turn for striking. A most important advance was the automatic feeder about which I gave a lecture to EAC. There was a rocker rod on the screw press which on each turn of the screw press pushed a sliding tongs back and forth. The tongs would open and a planchet would drop in. It would be pushed to the die for striking and the struck coin swept off on the next push of the rod which also brought a new planchet.

This must have increased production to 10 or more per minute if several men alternated to swing the bar.

I do not think men worked more than 10 hours per day but I would imagine that there could have been night shifts.

I am convinced that the long swings of the screw press and the hand placement of planchets of Newton's time were long gone in the Birmingham area due to Boulton. Thus the production could have easily been done over a reasonable period.

My best,



Eric P. Newman

Dies would have broken down if the tongs were made

*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
January 22, 1995*

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Your memo of January 10th has been very provocative. I'll do my best to comment on your questions. The 40 tons was mentioned as the output for a single die pair which was far too many, some 5,250,000 pieces.

From what I understand, your thought is that the 1783 and 1785 **NOVAS** were minted in close succession. I'll try to weigh the evidence, pro and con. While I do not know for sure when they were actually minted, the two varieties did not arrive here at the same time for reasons I've outlined in the book. The 1783 and 1785 varieties were actually different in planchet weights. The standard deviation for the 1783s is 120.8 ± 15.8 while for the 1785, I found 116.5 ± 7.2 , which is a factor of two. To me this suggests a different planchet population since the consistency in planchets improved considerably with the later coins. Now Felt specifically recalls the 1783 varieties in his youth in Massachusetts prior to the state coppers. I don't put too much faith in "eye witness" reports since we know how inaccurate these can be. If we look at the Vermont landscapes, the influence of the **NOVAS** is certainly apparent. These went from blunt to pointed rays from 1785 to 1786. This does not help since the Vermont die sinker could have access to the both styles of obverses from either 1783 or 1785 since both years sports both types of rays.

We can establish a rudimentary die emission sequence. I have a complete set of **NOVAS** in the bank but these can't help me now so I must resort to pictures and Breen's text in the *Encyclopedia*. I'm calling the U.S. side the obverse, and the **NOVA CONSTELLATIO** side with the date, the reverse, contrary to Breen's text but in keeping with Crosby.

1783 Crosby 1-A

1783 Crosby 2-B; 1783 obverse 2 muled with **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** (Breen 1117) as its reverse

1783 Crosby 3-C; blunt rays obverse 3 = **CONSTELLATIO**; also used with **IMMUNE COLUMBIA**, (Breen 1122) and 1785 1-B.

1785 Crosby 3-B (early group); due to lesser progression of reverse B die break under script U.S., some struck before 1785 1-B; 1785 obverse 3 muled with **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** (Breen 1119) before rusting occurred, so I'd assume the muling occurred during this earlier use.

1785 Crosby 1-B; blunt rays obverse **CONSTELLATIO** same as 1783 obverse 3. The reverse is shared with 1785 3-B and the die state places it between the early and later groups of 1785 3-B.

1785 Crosby 3-B (later group); due to further progression of reverse B die break, it shows these 3-Bs were struck after 1-B

1785 Crosby 2-A; rare

1785 Crosby 4-C; scarce but common host coin

1785 Crosby 4-D; rare but common host coin

1785 Crosby 5-E; rare but most common host coin

As far as the rare **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules are concerned, Breen's statistics (also Roper and Garrett) are as follows:

Breen 1117 (census 12 known), 1783 obv. 2, Roper 209 = 147.0;

Breen 1119 (census 5 or 6 known), 1785 obv. 3, Roper 210 = 86.4; Garrett 1332 = 121.1

Breen 1122 (census 2 known), 1783 obv. 3 and 1785 obv. 1; Roper 212 = 109.1

We do not have enough data to go by the weights. It would have been interesting to examine die states but there was no diagnostic die injury to assist in tracking them. So the only **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** one can really date in relation to the **NOVAS** is the Breen 1119 since this was struck with the early group before the die rusting occurred, or unless they polished the die and cleaned it up.

In following your letter, you note that the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** die was muled in America with the **CEORCIVS III**. I believe that marriage would have occurred in 1789 or so since the obverse die is so poorly done. I suspect that the mint (whichever one it was) was just about ready to give up the ghost and this was part of its agonal production.

Since the 1783 obverse 2 was still in good shape, you ask whether it would have been used again in 1785 as was 1783 obverse 3. This is a concept with which I have trouble. I've never been able to figure out die usage. As Mike Hodder showed in the New Jersey when one could follow die break progressions, the die sequence almost appeared random. On the other hand, we find instances when perfectly good appearing dies are discarded and never seen again in other combinations. Therefore, I have no sense why 1783 obv. 2 didn't surface again while obv. 3, even with its orthographic blunder, saw more service. But we see that 1785 3-B was struck before 1785 1-B as one follows reverse die breaks from 1785 3-B (early group), to 1785 1-B, and then finally 1785 3-B (later group). So the 1783 striking didn't go directly from 1783 3-C to 1785 1-B since 1785 3-B (early group) intervened. However, if they were all struck at the same time, this timing sequence would not make any difference.

Now the issue comes up, during what period were these coppers struck. It is my impression that many of the English and Irish counterfeit coppers were struck in the 1780s. This may be the reason for all the 1775-dated English halfpence. They just kept on hammering out the last legal date although others may have been properly dated, namely the 1781 and 1785 pieces with which you are familiar. The dates 1781 to 1783 were proper for Irish issues and we certainly see an abundance of them. There would have been no English pieces sent to America prior to the Peace of 1783 since the two countries were still technically at war. In fact while writing my family history, I came across an incident where American privateers raided our ancestral home, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in the summer of 1782 and extracted a £1,000 ransom not to burn the village. So I doubt that any friendly contact went on between the countries before spring 1783.

Objectively arranging the above "facts," what can one say:

1. The dates 1783 and 1785 cannot be believed as the date of issue. They were pre-dated.
2. The planchet fabric of the two years is different. There is more consistency in weight within the 1785-dated varieties.
3. Newspaper accounts regarding them first appeared in early 1786.
4. They were copied for Vermont landscapes reverses for 1785 and 1786. So prior to 1785 the New York engravers of the Vermonts must have been familiar with the design.
5. Does the extra star outside the orbit of the thirteen on the three original 1783 obverses refer to Vermont as the *Stella Quarta Decima*? Was there some rapport between the engravers?
6. There were three 1783-dated varieties.
7. There were six 1785-dated varieties.
8. There is a common obverse between the two years.
9. At least the 1785 dies 3-B were not all struck at once; the 1785 1-B strikes intervened.
10. There were three rare **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules using three different **NOVA CONSTEL[L]ATIO** obverses as their reverses.
11. The most common of these, Breen 1117, used the 1785 3 obverse during its early life before it showed signs of rust, hence it can be dated in reference to the other **NOVAS**.
12. We can then assume that the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules were minted during the same time frame as the early 1785 **NOVAS** using one 1785 obverse and two 1783 obverses.

13. When the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** die came to America, it was probably used in 1789 or some other late date since this rather well executed die was ruled with some very primitive domestic ones demonstrating that the responsible mint was in its last phases of production.
14. As for the **NOVAS** themselves, they could not have been imported much before May 1786. The 1783-dated varieties saw extensive circulation, and the 1785-dated ones, especially 5-E, 4-C and D, were commonly found as host coins. The circulation of lightweight tokens had to have faltered somewhere between the introduction of the 1783s and the last three 1785s. The overstruck pieces were commonly the 1787 Vermonts and the 1788 Connecticut. The usual date cited for this lack of confidence in lighter coppers is the summer of 1787.
15. No matter when the 1783 and the last three 1785 varieties arrived here, the entire window could not have been much more than a year, i.e., May 1786 to July 1787.
16. This implies that both years, 1783 and 1785, were minted within a few months of each other.
17. If according to Newton (Mossman p. 166), the average sustained output of a minting press was three coppers a minute, we have

$$3 \text{ coppers} \times 60 \text{ minutes} \times 10 \text{ hours} \times 6 \text{ days} = 10,800 \text{ a week.}$$
 With the estimated total census of 1c's say, 400,000 pieces, the total production time would have consumed 37 weeks which is the lion's share of a year.
18. So, the 1783 and 1785 **NOVAS** may have been more or less consecutively minted over 37 weeks. By the time the final shipments arrived in America, the late arrivals were more difficult to place into circulation and many were bought up by jobbers or otherwise sold to mints as a source of ready made planchets. (Maybe the mints had ordered ready-made planchets from England but settled for these already struck coppers for whom the market had collapsed - time for another theory.)

Have I helped or not? I think this reasonably correlates the facts as we know them. I wish I had thought of some of this when I was doing the book, but then again it is fodder for a second edition.

Another interesting tidbit. On my page 257, footnote 18, it said that as late as 1828 tables in money of account were still being published. A few weeks ago, my wife and I were rummaging around her mother's attic and came across some of her (my wife's) great grandfather's books. He was a sea captain out of Thomaston, Maine. There were two editions of *The Shipmaster's Assistant and Commercial Digest* by Joseph Blunt, the first edition in 1837 and the seventh edition in 1854. There was a 10 page chapter on bills of exchange, and a 58 page chapter on world exchange rates. Included were rules for reducing the colonial currencies of the different states to a par with each other etc. "There are, besides, four different currencies, or rates, at which any one species of coin, of the same value, is reckoned in the denominations of account, which have, perhaps, from the first settlement of America, been, and still continue to be, used in different parts of the Union. In the New England states, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, and in Virginia, and Kentucky, the dollar is received at six shillings; in New-York and North Carolina, at eight shillings; in New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, at seven shillings and six-pence; and in South Carolina and Georgia, at four shillings and eight-pence." These references indicate that colonial reckoning was still used in 1854.

I would be interested to hear what you think of my compilation. Is it helpful? What are you planning to do for the COAC? I've accepted the chairmanship and I suppose that pretty soon I'll have to start hounding the speakers and check on their progress. Best regards,

Sincerely yours,


*Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
January 22, 1995*

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Your memo of January 10th has been very provocative. I'll do my best to comment on your questions. The 40 tons was mentioned as the output for a single die pair which was far too many, some 5,250,000 pieces.

From what I understand, your thought is that the 1783 and 1785 **NOVAS** were minted in close succession. I'll try to weigh the evidence, pro and con. While I do not know for sure when they were actually minted, the two varieties did not arrive here at the same time for reasons I've outlined in the book. The 1783 and 1785 varieties were actually different in planchet weights. The standard deviation for the 1783s is 120.8 ± 15.8 while for the 1785, I found 116.5 ± 7.2 , which is a factor of two. To me this suggests a different planchet population since the consistency in planchets improved considerably with the later coins. Now Felt specifically recalls the 1783 varieties in his youth in Massachusetts prior to the state coppers. I don't put too much faith in "eye witness" reports since we know how inaccurate these can be. If we look at the Vermont landscapes, the influence of the **NOVAS** is certainly apparent. These went from blunt to pointed rays from 1785 to 1786. This does not help since the Vermont die sinker could have access to the both styles of obverses from either 1783 or 1785 since both years sports both types of rays.

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1783 Crosby 1-A

1783 Crosby 2-B; 1783 obverse 2 muled with **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** (Breen 1117) as its reverse

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As far as the rare **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules are concerned, Breen's statistics (also Roper and Garrett) are as follows:

Breen 1117 (census 12 known), 1783 obv. 2, Roper 209 = 147.0;

Breen 1119 (census 5 or 6 known), 1785 obv. 3, Roper 210 = 86.4; Garrett 1332 = 121.1

Breen 1122 (census 2 known), 1783 obv. 3 and 1785 obv. 1; Roper 212 = 109.1

We do not have enough data to go by the weights. It would have been interesting to examine die states but there was no diagnostic die injury to assist in tracking them. So the only **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** one can really date in relation to the **NOVAS** is the Breen 1119 since this was struck with the early group before the die rusting occurred, or unless they polished the die and cleaned it up.

In following your letter, you note that the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** die was muled in America with the **CEORCIVS III**. I believe that marriage would have occurred in 1789 or so since the obverse die is so poorly done. I suspect that the mint (whichever one it was) was just about ready to give up the ghost and this was part of its agonal production.

Since the 1783 obverse 2 was still in good shape, you ask whether it would have been used again in 1785 as was 1783 obverse 3. This is a concept with which I have trouble. I've never been able to figure out die usage. As Mike Hodder showed in the New Jersey when one could follow die break progressions, the die sequence almost appeared random. On the other hand, we find instances when perfectly good appearing dies are discarded and never seen again in other combinations. Therefore, I have no sense why 1783 obv. 2 didn't surface again while obv. 3, even with its orthographic blunder, saw more service. But we see that 1785 3-B was struck before 1785 1-B as one follows reverse die breaks from 1785 3-B (early group), to 1785 1-B, and then finally 1785 3-B (later group). So the 1783 striking didn't go directly from 1783 3-C to 1785 1-B since 1785 3-B (early group) intervened. However, if they were all struck at the same time, this timing sequence would not make any difference.

Now the issue comes up, during what period were these coppers struck. It is my impression that many of the English and Irish counterfeit coppers were struck in the 1780s. This may be the reason for all the 1775-dated English halfpence. They just kept on hammering out the last regal date although others may have been properly dated, namely the 1781 and 1785 pieces with which you are familiar. The dates 1781 to 1783 were proper for Irish issues and we certainly see an abundance of them. There would have been no English pieces sent to America prior to the Peace of 1783 since the two countries were still technically at war. In fact while writing my family history, I came across an incident where American privateers raided our ancestral home, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in the summer of 1782 and extracted a £1,000 ransom not to burn the village. So I doubt that any friendly contact went on between the countries before spring 1783.

Objectively arranging the above "facts," what can one say:

1. The dates 1783 and 1785 cannot be believed as the date of issue. They were pre-dated.
2. The planchet fabric of the two years is different. There is more consistency in weight within the 1785-dated varieties.
3. Newspaper accounts regarding them first appeared in early 1786.
4. They were copied for Vermont landscapes reverses for 1785 and 1786. So prior to 1785 the New York engravers of the Vermonts must have been familiar with the design.
5. Does the extra star outside the orbit of the thirteen on the three original 1783 obverses refer to Vermont as the *Stella Quarta Decima*? Was there some rapport between the engravers?
6. There were three 1783-dated varieties.
7. There were six 1785-dated varieties.
8. There is a common obverse between the two years.
9. At least the 1785 dies 3-B were not all struck at once; the 1785 1-B strikes intervened.
10. There were three rare **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules using three different **NOVA CONSTEL[L]ATIO** obverses as their reverses.
11. The most common of these, Breen 1117, used the 1785 3 obverse during its early life before it showed signs of rust, hence it can be dated in reference to the other **NOVAS**.
12. We can then assume that the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** mules were minted during the same time frame as the early 1785 **NOVAS** using one 1785 obverse and two 1783 obverses.

13. When the **IMMUNE COLUMBIA** die came to America, it was probably used in 1789 or some other late date since this rather well executed die was muled with some very primitive domestic ones demonstrating that the responsible mint was in its last phases of production.
14. As for the **NOVAS** themselves, they could not have been imported much before May 1786. The 1783-dated varieties saw extensive circulation, and the 1785-dated ones, especially 5-E, 4-C and D, were commonly found as host coins. The circulation of lightweight tokens had to have faltered somewhere between the introduction of the 1783s and the last three 1785s. The overstruck pieces were commonly the 1787 Vermonts and the 1788 Connecticut. The usual date cited for this lack of confidence in lighter coppers is the summer of 1787.
15. No matter when the 1783 and the last three 1785 varieties arrived here, the entire window could not have been much more than a year, i.e., May 1786 to July 1787.
16. This implies that both years, 1783 and 1785, were minted within a few months of each other.
17. If according to Newton (Mossman p.166), the average sustained output of a minting press was three coppers a minute, we have

$$3 \text{ coppers} \times 60 \text{ minutes} \times 10 \text{ hours} \times 6 \text{ days} = 10,800 \text{ a week}$$
 With the estimated total census of let's say, 400,000 pieces, the total production time would have consumed 37 weeks which is the lion's share of a year.
18. So, the 1783 and 1785 **NOVAS** may have been more or less consecutively minted over 37 weeks. By the time the final shipments arrived in America, the late arrivals were more difficult to place into circulation and many were bought up by jobbers or otherwise sold to mints as a source of ready made planchets. (Maybe the mints had ordered ready-made planchets from England but settled for these already struck coppers for whom the market had collapsed - time for another theory.)

Have I helped or not? I think this reasonably correlates the facts as we know them. I wish I had thought of some of this when I was doing the book, but then again it is fodder for a second edition.

Another interesting tidbit. On my page 257, footnote 18, it said that as late as 1828 tables in money of account were still being published. A few weeks ago, my wife and I were rummaging around her mother's attic and came across some of her (my wife's) great grandfather's books. He was a sea captain out of Thomaston, Maine. There were two editions of *The Shipmaster's Assistant and Commercial Digest* by Joseph Blunt, the first edition in 1837 and the seventh edition in 1854. There was a 10 page chapter on bills of exchange, and a 58 page chapter on world exchange rates. Included were rules for reducing the colonial currencies of the different states to a par with each other etc. "There are, besides, four different currencies, or rates, at which any one species of coin, of the same value, is reckoned in the denominations of account, which have, perhaps, from the first settlement of America, been, and still continue to be, used in different parts of the Union. In the New England states, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, and in Virginia, and Kentucky, the dollar is received at six shillings; in New-York and North Carolina, at eight shillings; in New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, at seven shillings and six-pence; and in South Carolina and Georgia, at four shillings and eight-pence." These references indicate that colonial reckoning was still used in 1854.

I would be interested to hear what you think of my compilation. Is it helpful? What are you planning to do for the COAC? I've accepted the chairmanship and I suppose that pretty soon I'll have to start hounding the speakers and check on their progress. Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
November 27, 1994

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thanks for the phone call and the several letters which arrived soon after. I'm enjoying a long Thanksgiving holiday and am using the time to catch up on a pile of unanswered letters. I will attempt to reply to your thought provoking questions.

In regard to the Nova Constellatio there is one major fact that needs to be remembered about their circulation. While I'm sure that the date, be it 1783 or 1785, means little as to when they were minted or arrived here, one must note that the entire output didn't arrive here at the same time. This is because only the 1785 varieties are found overstruck and the 1783s are rarely seen as undertypes. This suggests that the 1785-dated varieties arrived here some time later than their 1783-dated brothers. The time interval must have been such that when the 1785 varieties showed up, lighter coppers were harder to pass and were not as acceptable in circulation. This could have been in mid-1787. Hence, many of their numbers were bought up as ready-made planchets to receive new identities. Machin's Mills, who was making Vermonts and 1788 Connecticuts, and Elizabethtown were the probable purchasers of a great number of the 1785-dated coppers. I really have no comment about the origins of the Vermont reverses except to say that the copper Nova Constellatio must have been much more familiar than those excessively rare silver patterns to which the public had little exposure. I have no opinion as to which one was the original, except to note that there was certainly a mutual influence. I will need to get a copy of the July 1962 *Numismatic Scrapbook* article since that reference obviously escaped my attention. I will certainly be interested in what more you find about the persons who ordered the Nova Constellatio pieces. This is one of my favorite series.

The Proc slide is taken from Felt. The data in his table correspond to the written Proclamation as it appears in Chalmers, page 414. The Act of 1707 was actually the Proclamation of 1704 given the force of law. Here they speak of *new* plate and *old* plate so the reduction must have already taken place by 1704. Page 402 in Chalmers lists Newton's 1702 Spanish silver assays which are identical to his 1717 calculations. This is why the 1704 and the 1715 data are the same. I can never understand why silver was depreciated on the Spanish peninsula while the standard remained so constant in the New World.

I'll be interested to hear what you think about my comments on the Continental dollars which in our opinion were not copper prototypes.

Unfortunately we are preparing for winter. An ice storm is expected tonight - probably the first of many. Living in Maine certainly builds character!

I hope this letter finds you and yours in good health. We hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving.

Sincerely yours,



**Philip L. Mossman, M.D.
36 Griffin Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444
November 27, 1994**

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Nova
Nova
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Sincerely yours,

Phil

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

3/15/95 just noticed the
typos in this letter
November 14, 1994
Snowy Eric

Dear Phil:

I believe I will have some additional facts as to the person or persons who ordered the Nova Constellatio pieces (I don't go for the proper Latin order as yet). I'll let you know what I find.

On that subject I read that part of your book again. From the English newspaper inserts (all American items copied them) I still feel that the 1783 pieces were struck in 1785 along with the 1785 pieces. I feel Wyon copied the silver patterns or their drawings creating dies dated 1783 at first and then changed to date them 1785.

The forty tons in the 1786 English accounts may be wrong as you pointed out. Perhaps they meant 4 tons. If 40 tons had been made there would be about 4,400,000 (40 X 2200 X 50) coins made. That is a bit much.

1772
1972
I suggest you consider changing your comment on p. 183 that the 1785 Vermont coins simulate the copper Nova. I do not believe the normal copper Nova was then coined. Perhaps they had a drawing of a Robert Morris piece or saw one. You can avoid the issue by striking out the word "copper".

After I wrote the 1960 Scrapbook article on the subject, another came out in the July 1962 Scrapbook with no author. Russell Rulau wrote it initially and I tried to revise it and added items. I am thanked in the 1962 article but it is not too clear as I had no final control.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

P.S. In the index to your book under Constellatio Nova patterns you use 220. Please cut your voltage to 200 so I am not shocked. This will help in your next edition.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Philip Mossman
36 Griffin Ave
Hampden, ME 04444-1009

November 14, 1994

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ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Harvey Stack
Stack's
123 West 57th St.
New York, NY 10019-2280

February 10, 1995

Dear Harvey:

I am giving a talk on the source of the copper Nova Constellatio coinage as part of the COAC at ANS in October 1995. I would like to have color slides of the 5 mill, 500 mill and 1000 mill pieces (both sides). I have slides of our 100 mill piece. The reason I need these slides is to demonstrate that the proper text of these patterns and pieces is NOVA CONSTELLATIO (as you use in your beautiful promotion pamphlet) and not the CONSTELLATIO NOVA as Breen started and others followed.

I enclose my reasons for that position and hope you can keep it in confidence so that the novelty of that part of my talk won't be anticipated by leakage.

I presume the slides are no problem for you. Of course if you want to send slides of the 100 mill too that would be great.

I believe I also have the source of the 1785 copper Novas so I hope you can come to the talk to see if I have something nova.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman



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123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019-2280

February 21, 1995

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

We received your letter with reference to the Nova Constellatio patterns we featured in a brochure.

We spoke to the present owner and he is very willing to provide the photos you wished with the following provision.

We all assume that any reference you may make to these patterns will only be favorable to the coins. The owner doesn't wish the patterns to be the source for some sort of exposé or great new discovery which might diminish the importance of these patterns.

As the photos we used for the booklet were shot on 4 x 5 transparencies and not suitable for projection, the present owner authorized us to re-shoot the patterns on 35mm slides, more suitable for projection. This will be done this week.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

STACK'S

Harvey G. Stack



TEL 212/582-2580

FAX 212/245-5018





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123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • TEL 212/582-2580

March 20, 1991

Mr. John J. Ford
PO Box 10317
Phoenix, AZ 85064

Dear John:

The "Bit" will be part of our May Auction Sale. Your help and generosity in letting us work with your coin helped our research immeasurably.

For your files I am pleased to enclose herewith an enlarged photo of the bit we are selling together with an actual size print.

We are also enclosing herewith a copy of the Press Release we have just issued about the sale of this coin. Also, enclosed is the three page text description as it will appear in our May catalogue.

Again on behalf of everybody here at Stack's, thank you for all your help.

With all good wishes and personal regards,

Sincerely,

STACK'S

Lawrence R. Stack

LRS/tf



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 21, 1991

Mr. John J. Ford
P. O. Box 10317
Phoenix, AZ 85064

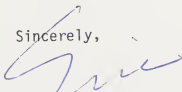
Dear John:

Larry Stack sent me the enclosed letter dated March 20, 1991 addressed to you. Apparently, a similar letter was addressed to me and sent to you.

Please send me the letter intended for me, if you received it and have not already dispatched it.

I have notified Larry concerning this mixup.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 27, 1990

Mr. Carl W. A. Carlson
Stack's
123 W. 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Carl:

In your September 24, 1990 letter you asked for my comments on your write-up of the 100 unit piece, and here are a few suggestions.

You will make your piece sound much rarer if you say that there are only two known with the edge design. Naturally, you should give all the detail on the plain edge piece too.

You could be accused of being very negligent, to leave out the mention of the other 500 mill piece which has always been with the set and was separated at the Garrett sale. It was in Parmelee and Ellsworth.

The South Carolina system did not really use 13th of a dollar. Its shilling value should be stated if you want to go into this.

Typographical error in Morrison.

Is Thomsen the correct spelling?

The modern words are CONSTELLATIO NOVA if you want to please the Latin group.

The plain edge 100 unit was exchanged by Garrett for the Ellsworth piece through Wayte Raymond. It was not sold as a separate transaction.

You should give the weight of the other pieces.

Mine is better described as in "the Eric P. Newman collection."

You should name the Italian gentleman, if permitted, instead of leaving that vague.

In the title you should also use 100 units.

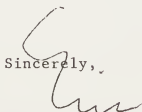
In the edge characteristics section 3, you should identify which is which again.

I do not know about the adjustment marks, as you still have my piece.

Perhaps Harvey can return my piece on October 12, 1990 at the Harry Fowler banquet, if he is going.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman



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123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL 212/582-2580

September 24, 1990

Mr. Eric Newman
PO Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

I am enclosing a copy of our final write-up on the 1783 Bit. Thought you might like to look it over and perhaps make any suggestions that occur to you.

Thank you very much for loaning us your specimen of the Bit. It was of great assistance.

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S

Carl W.A. Carlson
Carl W.A. Carlson

CWAC/sr
encl.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 23, 1991

Mr. Harvey Stack
Stack's
123 W. 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Harvey:

You have had our 100 mil Nova Constellatio silver piece (the bit) for over 6 months and I thought I would write you to ask you when it will be returned. My tickler file said I should tickle at this time and that is what I am doing.

Ticklingly yours,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

3/11/91
He has it
He apologized for not answering
EPN



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123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL 212/582-2580

June 8, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 30.

We probably could have your Bit analyzed at the same place we had the one we are trying to verify.

Firstly we need to know what value you wish to place on yours. Then we can discuss with our insurance company how best to handle the shipment.

Of course we will have to set up a date at the lab. We would not like to hold the coin longer than necessary.

Looking forward to the pleasure of hearing from you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S


Harvey G. Stack

HGS/sr



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 12, 1990

Mr. Harvey Stack
Stack's
123 W. 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

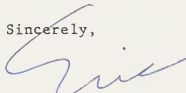
Dear Harvey:

In accordance with your suggestion, I am delivering to you our 100 Mill Nova Constellatio for examination, photography and non-destructive analysis. This loan is being made to help you in studying the newly found piece you have possession of.

It should be covered by insurance for \$100,000 until it is returned to us. I look forward to a copy of any analysis you have made and to any pictures you make of it. If you need any more information on it, please let me know.

Return it as soon as practical. Take good care of it as I know you will.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



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123 WEST 57TH STREET | NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL. 212/582/2580

July 23, 1990

Mr. Eric Newman
Eric Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric:

This will acknowledge receipt of your example of the Nova
Constellatio Pattern Silver One Bit for study purposes you
so kindly delivered to us on July 13, 1990.

I want to thank you personally for your interest in this study
and we will keep you informed of our findings.

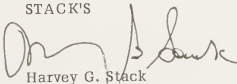
We presently plan to have the analysis done at DuPont Laboratories
on Wednesday, August 1 (the first time we could make a date
with the machine).

After the work is completed we will return your specimen
to you after discussing the best way to do this with you.

Again our sincere appreciation for your help in this project
and with warmest personal regards from Norman, Larry and
myself, I am

Very truly yours,

STACK'S


Harvey G. Stack

HGS/tf





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123 WEST 57TH STREET - NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL. 212/582-2580

July 17, 1990

Mr. Eric Newman
PO Box 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Eric:

Just a short note to thank you for dropping off the "100 Mills". It should be quite interesting after I do the research on all 3 known pieces. I will keep you posted and send you any research material prior to publication.

Thanks again and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

STACK'S

Lawrence R. Stack

LRS/tf





Specimen coins struck in 1783 to exemplify Robert Morris' proposed coinage for the United States.

1. 100-unit coin, or cent
2. 500-unit coin, or quint (with variant obverse and light weight)
3. 500-unit coin, or quint
4. 1000-unit coin, or mark

For a general description of these coins, see p. xxvii-xxviii.

~~Ex~~ An New English Dictionary on Historical Principles
Oxford 1901 Vol IV p 11 Q

Woodwards 73rd Sale 1885
has 100 mill price illustrated (not
H J N Apr 1885 has its dictionary in cotton.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW PIECE IN THE NOVA CONSTELLATIO SERIES.

THE numismatic event of the period, of interest to the American collector, is the discovery, in Scotland, of the small silver piece of the series suggested by Gouverneur Morris in a system of coinage devised by him, and reported to the Government by the financier Robert Morris. This series was to comprise a gold coin or crown, three silver coins, the mark, the quint, the bit or bil, and two pieces of copper. The gold coin is unknown, and probably never was struck; the mark, and two varieties of the quint, each of the three considered to be unique, are now known in the cabinet of Mr. Lorin G. Parmelee of Boston; the bit has hitherto remained undiscovered until within a few months; at the sale by auction in Scotland of the cabinet of a Scotch collector recently deceased, one turned up as an unknown coin, and was purchased by a dealer for the large sum of £15 15s.; at which price, with ten per cent added, it was offered to a prominent collector in England, by whom it was sent to an American dealer, for advice as to its rarity, genuineness, value, etc. It was returned with a liberal offer, and now having found its way across the Atlantic for a fourth time, it is offered for sale in New York on the 2d of April.

In a future number, if the facts are obtainable, we hope to give some more definite information concerning this piece and its hiding place for the last century and upwards; it is understood to have been sold in Glasgow. The coin has been submitted to the leading numismatists and collectors in this country, and no doubt whatever is felt concerning its genuineness. A full account of the mark and quint, and whatever was known of Morris's system of coinage, will be found in Crosby's work on the Early Coins of America, where the subject is very fully treated, and also in the *Journal*, Vol. X, p. 33. The piece itself is illustrated on the plate in the catalogue of Mr. Woodward's Seventy-third Sale, now just issued, and a full description, with some facts, may be found in the addenda to that sale. w.

SOME RARE OLD COINS.

UNDER the above heading, we learn from the *Boston Journal* of the 7th March, that a gentleman residing in the suburbs of Boston has a collection, now comprising six hundred specimens of coins, and some not to be procured at any price.

The writer states the further fact (!) "probably no other private collector in this country can present such a rarity, and of such value, as that in question, and with so many pieces in such excellent preservation."

We have heretofore supposed that two well known Boston gentlemen possessed collections somewhat remarkable at least, but they must now look to their laurels. The writer in the *Journal* mentions the gems of this collection as follows, with the prices annexed which were paid by his friend, the suburban numismatist. —

The first issued half eagle of 1795, valued at \$500. A complete set of cents from 1793 to 1857, all nearly perfect; but this fact is qualified by the statement that the date of one is somewhat obscured by the attrition of circulation. At this point the writer, before proceeding to description of individual wonders, remarks: "I presume it would be very vexatious to him to know that any other private collection of these old coins contains specimens such as he has in his own." The Washington Cent, declared by the facetious collector to be *excentric*, "Unity States of America, 1783," cost \$55. The price said to have been paid is followed by the interesting statement that a gentleman recently bought one in a New York auction room for \$50, and sold it before he left the room for \$75.

Among the other gems we observe the Franklin Cent, cost \$125.

The Nova Constellatio, 1783, "very rare, and much sought for," but price not named.

Burgundy, Flanders, and Tyrol; and Lord of America.—The nose was a little broken, and the skin was black as jet; but "to this complexion we must come at last." It was a sublime incident in the history of the Reformation, when the intrepid Luther stood in the same presence, at the Diet of Worms, in 1521. At the end of three centuries and a half, it makes another appearance, to other spectators. There are pictures of the former audience; I could wish to have a photograph of the latter.

Mr. M. has complied with another request, in bringing me an Almanac from Finland; that I may know how the sun behaves, when he will not rise, and does not set.

Mr. M. looks about ten years younger than when he left, and twenty years younger than he really is. The reality may always be remembered, by the "cent of 1799," which, as time advances, turns into gold.

W. E. DuBois.

U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

NOVA CONSTELLATIO COINS.

Philadelphia, June 15, 1872.

Editors of Journal of Numismatics.

I purchased a collection of coins, recently, from Mr. Rathmel Wilson, of Wilmington, Delaware, containing a number of fine pieces, among which were the Nova Constellatio Dollar, or 1000 Mill piece, and the Nova Constellatio Half dollar, or 500 Mill piece. These pieces are rare, and I think are the most interesting of the Confederation series, being without doubt the first designs for a dollar and half dollar for the United States,—the date being the same as the cent, *i. e.*, 1783, and are pure silver, and in uncirculated or rather proof condition. The weight of the dollar is eleven dwts. and six grains,—the half dollar, five dwts. fifteen grains. I annex a copy of Mr. Wilson's letter to me in reference to these pieces.

JOHN W. HASELTINE.

Philadelphia, May 28, 1872.

JOHN W. HASELTINE, ESQ.

Dear Sir,—The history of the two coins which you obtained from me, viz. Nova Constellatio 1783, U. S. 1000, Nova Constellatio, 1783, U. S. 500, is as follows. They were the property of the Hon. Charles Thomson, secretary of the first Congress. At his death his property was left by will to his nephew, John Thomson, of Newark, Delaware. These two coins were found in the desk of the said deceased Charles Thomson, and preserved by his nephew during his life; at his death they came into the possession of his son Samuel E. Thomson of Newark, Delaware, from whom I obtained them. So you will perceive that their genuineness cannot be questioned; as they were never out of the possession of the Thomson family, until I received them.

RATHMEL WILSON.

NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

THE FIRST PART OF THE YEAR.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1884.

NEW YORK.

On the Express or Different Addresses, for \$1.00.

The price of Numisma has been increased to \$1.00 per copy. If you are not able to pay for the subscription, you may send it to the publisher, who will send it to you on credit. If you are not able to pay for the subscription, you may send it to the publisher, who will send it to you on credit.

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TO THE COLLECTORS.

The attention of collectors desiring to dispose of their coin and metal cabinets is respectfully called to the fact that Mr. Ed. Frossard has accepted an engagement with the old-established firm of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., coin-dealers, Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York, taking charge of their Department of Ancient and Modern Coins, Medals, Postage Stamps, Antiquities, Bric-a-Brac, etc. The facilities for the safe-keeping and cataloguing of collections, large and small, in the room assigned to him (formerly occupied for the same purpose by Mr. Wm. H. Strickland) are all that can be desired, and he is ready to undertake, at short notice, and on the lowest terms, any numismatic or other work pertaining to this department.

Collectors desiring to be furnished regularly with information on the sales to take place at Clinton Hall are respectfully requested to send their names to Mr. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., to be placed on the free list.

A private cabinet to collectors and dealers on part of the Leavitt and other collections, comprising beautiful and rare American and foreign coins, will be made at Clinton Hall from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. on Saturday, 21st, and 28th inst.

MAK, QUINT, CENT

Referring to the NOVA CONSTELLATIO, 1783, pattern piece of Robert Morris, of which only the Mak (270 gr.) and Quint (130 gr.) are described in the "Early Coins of America," p. 312, Mr. Crosby says "it remains for some fortunate investigator to discover the pieces still waiting to exhibit the designs of the dies as yet unrepresented in the cabinets of our numismatists;" but it is also evident from the context that Mr. Crosby had very little hope or faith in the possibility of such an eventuality.

Well, the discovery has been made, and the lucky discoverer of the 110 mark or silver cent is Mr. W. L. Woodward, who thus again brings his name prominently before American numismatists and proves himself the most fortunate as well as the most enterprising of our coin dealers.

Mr. Woodward obtained this coin indirectly from Scotland, where, neglected or not quite forgotten, it had, for many years, formed part of a small collection. At the time of the Wight sale he kindly allowed the editor of Numisma to inspect it, with the view of announcing the interesting discovery in the present issue.

Description of the Silver Cent:

Obverse.—An eye, forming the centre of a glory of thirteen points, the points intersecting a circle of thirteen stars, NOVA CONSTELLATIO.

Reverse.—U. S. 100 in slender wreath; LIBERTY JUSTITIA 1785, near border.

Ed. 100 in slender wreath, of workmanlike size, uncirculated; weight, 34 gr.

This coin agrees so closely in design, appearance, workmanship, etc. with the Quint, of which it is the fifth part, that there rests not the slightest doubt of its genuineness and authenticity; the attention of our advanced collectors was immediately drawn to this little gem, the foremost man in that pursuit

being Lorin G. Barnet, who after a short but spirited contest with Mr. Woodward, terms and captured the prize for a good but not extravagant consideration.

Seeing others close at his heels, Mr. W. L. broke away from Lorin G., and is now a clear 50 dollars ahead. In order to give every collector with a good bank account a fair opportunity to secure the prize, it has

finally been settled that the race shall be prolonged until the afternoon of April 2d, when Mr. Woodward will positively yield to the man who can score the largest number of dollars above 550. See Addenda W. L. W.'s 73d sale, at Bangs & Co., April 2d and 3d.

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NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

PRICE 10 CTS. PER COPY.

50 CTS. PER ANNUM.

Or Three Copies, to Different Addresses, for \$1.00.

The circulation of *Numisma* has lately increased to the extent, that with a limited edition, we cannot hereafter guarantee regular distribution except to paid up subscribers. If you have failed to remit, please forward the 50c for 1885 subscription at sight of this notice.

Remittances can be made in fractional currency, postal orders or postage stamps, but if you have not yet paid up for 1884 a \$1 bill will do quite as well.

TO COIN COLLECTORS.

The attention of collectors desiring to dispose of their coin and medal cabinets is respectfully called to the fact that Mr. Ed. Frossard has made an engagement with the old-established well-known firm of Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., auctioneers, Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York, taking charge of their Department of Ancient and Modern Coins, Medals, Postage Stamps, Antiquities, Bric-a-Brac, etc. The facilities for the safe-keeping and cataloguing of collections, large and small, in the room assigned to him (formerly occupied for the same purpose by Mr. Wm. H. Strobridge) are all that can be desired, and he is ready to undertake, at short notice, and on the lowest terms, any numismatic or other work pertaining to his department.

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Well, the discovery has been made, and the lucky discoverer of the 1-10 mark or silver cent is Mr. W. E. Woodward, who thus again brings his name prominently before American numismatists and proves himself the most fortunate as well as the most enterprising of our coin dealers.

Mr. Woodward obtained this coin indirectly from Scotland, where, neglected or not quite forgotten, it had, for many years, formed part of a small collection. At the time of the Wight sale he kindly allowed the editor of *Numisma* to inspect it, with the view of announcing the interesting discovery in the present issue.

Description of the Silver Cent:

Obverse.—An eye, forming the centre of a glory of thirteen points, the points intersecting a circle of thirteen stars; NOVA CONSTELLATIO.

Reverse. U. S. 100 in slender wreath; LIBERTAS. JUSTITIA 1783, near border.

Edge ornamented with leaf work, dime size, uncirculated; weight, 34 gr.

This coin agrees so closely in design, appearance, workmanship, etc. with the Quint, of which it is the fifth part, that there remains not the slightest doubt of its genuineness and authenticity; the attention of our advanced collectors was immediately drawn to this little gem, the foremost man in hot pursuit

being Lorin G. Parmelee, who after a short but spirited run brought Mr. Woodward to terms and captured the prize for a good but not extravagant cash consideration.

Later. Seeing others close at his heels, W. E. broke away from Lorin G., and is now a clear 50 dollars ahead. In order to give every collector with a solid bank account a fair opportunity to secure the prize, it has finally been settled that the race shall be prolonged until the afternoon of April 2d, when Mr. Woodward will positively yield to the man who can score the largest number of dollars above 550. See Addenda W. E. W.'s 73d sale, at Bangs & Co., April 2d and 3d.

Sorry - mine has no plates!!

in very good or fine condition; unblemished except by slight, ordinary wear, and every portion distinct and good. It is, without doubt, the first one known in this country, and it is also quite certain that no more than two others are known here, and two in France,—five in all. It is now offered for positive sale without the least reserve. See plate for reverse.

- 1062 1694 Carolina Elephant Piece. "God preserve Carolina and the Lords Proprietors, 1694." A large elephant walking left, no inscription: copper, thin planchet of unquestioned genuineness. The inscription on the reverse slightly indistinct in the centre, the part opposite on the body of the elephant, the planchet not being thick enough to give the full relief of both dies. Uncommonly good and an excessively rare coin. It has scarcely been offered in sales since the discovery of the celebrated Bache collection, which contained no less than three specimens. See plate.

- 1063 1700 Vox Populi Half Penny. Circulated South in Colonial days. Very scarce.

- 1064 1783 The Bit or Bill, or piece of 100 mits. Unique pattern coin of the United States. An eye on a plain field within a glory or sun of thirteen points; between the points thirteen stars forming a circle; legend, "NOVA CONSTELLATIO"; rev., a wreath of olive leaves enclosing the letters U. S. and the figures 100; legend, "LIBERTAS JUSTITIA, 1783." Size 11; weight 27 grains or nearly. The edge of the coin ornamented with leaf-work. This coin was offered for sale in the Addenda to my sale No. 73 and was limited to a starting bid of \$550.00, for want of which it was withdrawn. *It is now offered, without limit, for positive sale.* I have declined an actual cash offer of \$300.00 from a dealer, and a conditional offer of \$400.00 from a collector. A much fuller account of the piece may be found in the Addenda referred to, a copy of which will be sent free on application. The obverse of the piece is illustrated in my Catalogue No. 73, and the reverse is illustrated in this Catalogue, copies of which, with one or more plates, will be forwarded on receipt of order, for 50 cents.

- 1064 1785 Immune Columbia. Columbia seated supporting the pole and Liberty cap, and holding the scales in her left hand; rev., a sun surrounded by stars and

this is not
the 100¢
piece
because of
the ornamented
edge.

- having an eye in the centre: "Nova Constellatio."
This piece is very fine, barely circulated condition, a trifling crack in the edge scarcely marring it in any respect, the result of striking: *extremely rare*. See plate.
- 1065 1767 Colonies Françaises. The so-called Louisiana Cent. Crossed sceptres; rev. countermarked R.F.; very good, scarce.
- 1066 1781 North American Token; rev., a ship; good.
- 1067 1783 Annapolis Shilling. Private issue by I. Chalmers; very fine and *rare*.
- 1068 1783 Chalmers' Annapolis Sixpence; not as good as the last, but very much rarer.
- 1069 1790 Standish Barry Threepence or Baltimore town-piece. Bust to left. "Baltimore town, July 4, 90"; rev., Standish Barry, and denomination across the centre; fine and of *extreme rarity*.
- 1070 1783 Nova Constellatio; the sun with an eye in the centre, surrounded by a constellation of thirteen stars; the latter between the rays which are club-shaped or blunt pointed. "Nova Constellatio." Copper, very fine indeed or uncirc., *rare*.
- 1071 1785 Nova Constellatio. Constellatio spelled with one n; copper, fine, but not nearly equal to the last.
- 1072 1786 Vermont Cent. Sun rising over a mountain on which are seven trees; plough in the foreground; fine, *rare*.
- 1073 1787 Massachusetts Cent; fair.
- 1074 1787 Massachusetts Half Cent; fair, scarce.
- 1075 1787 Connecticut Cent. "Auctori Connfe"; fine and very scarce.
- 1076 1787 Connecticut Cent. "Auctopi Connec." Legend in large letters, no punctuation between et and lib.; fair, scarce.
- 1077 1787 Connecticut Cent. "Inde et" to left of Goddess; fair, scarce.
- 1078 1787 Auctori Plebis. Head to left; rev., female seated leaning on an anchor. "Indep et Liber"; copper, fine and *rare*.
- 1079 1787 Connecticut Cent. Horned bust and attenuated goddess; fair, scarce.
- 1080 1787 Small bust and small goddess, planchet unusually small; fair, scarce.

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson

Editor, JULIAN P. BOYD
Princeton University Library
Princeton, New Jersey

A COMPLETE EDITION OF JEFFERSON'S WORKS
SPONSORED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY UNDER A
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November 5, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

On my return from a three month's absence, I am delighted to find your interesting letter of August 20 concerning my notes on Jefferson's Notes on Coinage. I value your opinion very highly and I am tremendously pleased to think that you have found what I have done has some value.

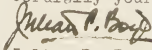
As you must have seen from my commentary, I am a complete novice in the field of numismatic history. I am therefore pleased that you evidently did not find more mistakes than the two which you so kindly call to my attention.

As to the statement on page 160 -- that no action resulted between 1786 and 1791 -- I am extremely glad to have your correction. I had completely overlooked the Fusio copper coinage of 1787. What I had in mind in making the statement was that there was no general coinage and no establishment of a mint, but I should not have made the flat and unqualified statement that I did.

As to the use of the term "cent" in the caption to the illustrations, I should have made it clear that I was using Morris' own terminology and did not mean to convey the impression that "the 100 unit piece is equivalent to a cent." You will find that Morris suggested the terms cent, quint and mark in his letter of 15 January 1782 (see page 167).

I am sending you a few copies of the collotype reproductions of the coins at Johns Hopkins. I heartily congratulate you on the ownership of the other 100 unit piece and I am pleased to know that it is struck from the same pair of dies as the one at Hopkins.

Cordially yours,



Julian P. Boyd

Sept 1959

1000 mil Nova (hoked) ~~Sp. gr. 10~~
B from Breen

diameter $30\frac{1}{2}$ mm edge plain $239\frac{1}{2}$ grains

Sp. gr. 10

Surface full of tiny dents, and jacks

Weak ~~center~~ and design

~~Center of eye (pupil) at bottom and not by wear.~~

Web from leaf to ~~stem~~ circular stem on
outside leaf below second O in 1000



Another web from around outside leaf under 1 (not on original)
B of LIBERTAS shows serious casting
defect.

BE

whereas my electro has a B with a completely ~~well~~ formed
rounded lower lobe B without the

The E in CONSTELLATIO has a
ragged center member
far different than E of LIBERTAS



The hole is drilled directly through the place betw
NOVA and CONST where there is a planchet defect
on the original.

The period between LIBERTAS and JUSTITIA
is spread too wide for ^{normal} wear and too irregular.



GRAND CENTRAL
STATION

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Eric S. Newman, Secretary
Edison Bros. Stores
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

*originals
in Brown
file*

Dear Eric,
Where did you hear I lost a Miller-Ryder? There are about 5 annotated copies extant. I have one of them. / Will send the 1783 when I get it back from JIN. They are now measuring it to see if any details are smaller as would be true of a cast (from finite thickness of separating medium). WBS altogether wrong abt. 1783 MOVA compass made from Dudley dies; it was Wron. This is corrected (partly) in Penny Whings. I never had either ^{of other Lima} pasteurys for the Brasler article. I never saw the JIN example, otherwise my description wd have differed, owing to parts of legends being visible on it. I don't think my 1783 1000-unit is an electro. It is either a damnably clever centrif. cast made to deceive, polished at rims to eliminate telltale seam, holed and carried around for years, OR it is genuine. I cannot yet be sure which. If genuine, it is the find of the decade.

Best -

WB



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Bros. Stores
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

—7-11 JUNE, 1959—
CONVENTION-NEW YORK CITY
—ROTARY INTERNATIONAL—



Dear Eric:

The 1213 (keep this quiet pro tem) is a 1000 unit piece, silver, excellent ring; plain edge, thick flan, no seam on edge, no trace of stem. Small relief marks on surfaces proved to match identically small die defects on the original Thomson-Garrett 1000 unit coin. Pierced; wt. now 239.2 grains (original, 268.7) sp.gr. of the new one 10.03; sp.gr. of the Garrett coin, 10.49 indicating almost pure silver. What I have is either a worn genuine example (carried around 'screno's neck till about 1865) with a small bubble somewhere within, or a cast, and I'm in a quandary. Centering is no evidence as the planchet is too narrow to tell. It is definitely NOT a Mickey copy. It is from an Ohio estate and supposedly was there since before 1865. If cast, what iron, and furthermore when did modern one-piece centrifugal casting begin? ^{Rec'd, please} This, if cast, is superbly done--no porosity, no bubble marks. Your advice? If you want, I'll send it on. You're in a hurry? What am I in? Thank for the items--they relate to Agden's activity at Elizabethtown 1789-90. Best,

W3

*Original
from file*

Sept 1959

Dear Eric:

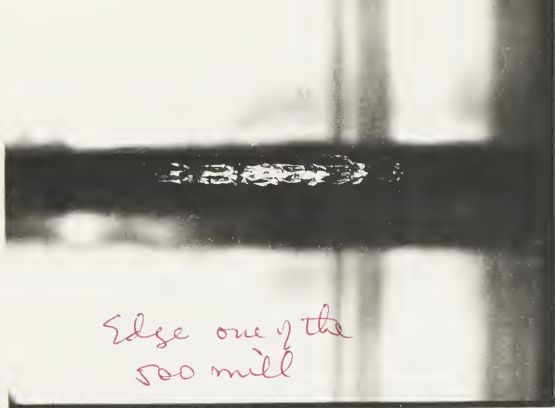
Having just examined centrifugal casts made for experimental purposes (and they are diabolically clever ones), I now conclude that a centrifugal cast differs in size from its original by an amount visible to the naked eye, inevitably, and therefore that the present coin is not a centrifugal cast made from the ~~Mickley~~ coin. The die flaws on the ~~Mickley~~ Garrett example are not planchet flaws. Of this I am 100% sure. No evidence from centering because the Garrett coin is on a wide thin flan, the present piece on a narrower and thicker one. I have already given you weight and sp.gr. I would appreciate your evaluation of the piece as soon as feasible. The more I study it the more I am sure it is a struck coin, but I dare not say anything without 100% certainty and this does not yet seem possible.

Congratulations on a truly excellent article in the NUMISMATIST. I think you have pretty well established the identity of E.G. Reprints?

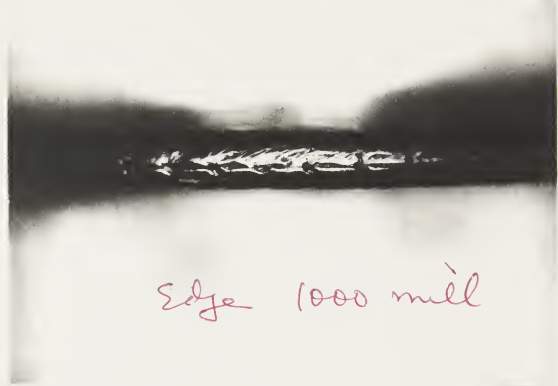
Dickie the Pick alias The ~~xxx~~ Tongue alias R. Picker is seeking a reprint of your ANS Centennial Pub. article.

Best regards always.

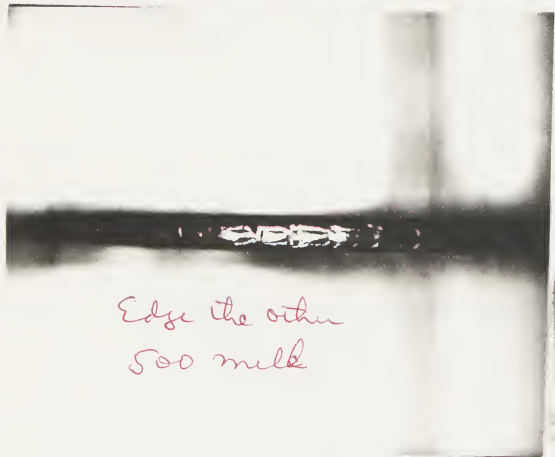
Walter Breen



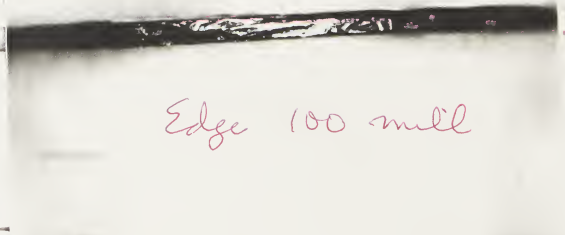
Edge one of the
500 mill



Edge 1000 mill



Edge the other
500 mill



Edge 100 mill

EXCESSIVELY RARE 1783 GOUVERNEUR MORRIS PATTERN BIT

ONE OF ONLY THREE KNOWN

1783 Bit, or 100 Unit piece, struck in alloyed silver. 26.78 grains. Diameter: North/South 16.9mm; East/West 16.7mm. Very Fine or better, light circulation scratches on each side. All legends and devices clear. A previously unknown specimen, one of three pieces struck for, and delivered to, Gouverneur Morris on April 22, 1783.

The background of the Gouverneur Morris patterns goes back to the chaotic state of finances in America after the end of the Revolutionary War. Each of the former colonies had its own monetary system and exchange rates, often incompatible with those of its neighbors.¹ Morris carried out a careful analysis of the various systems and rates of the different areas and devised a new system based on a theoretical "unit" of 1/4 grain of silver, the actual coins to be struck as decimal multiples of it. This was intended to allow easy and even conversion of each of the various systems into the new one. Two copper coins were to be included: a "5" unit, and an "8" unit, the latter for conversion of the South Carolina system which used 13ths of a Dollar. The proposed silver coins were the Mark, of 1,000 units; the Quint, of 500 units; and the Bit, of 100 units. Dies were engraved by Benjamin Dudley and associates, with the Mark being delivered to Morris on April 2, 1783, followed twenty days later by the Quint and three specimens of the Bit. The precise date of striking of the "5" piece in copper is unknown, but contemporary to the other issues; apparently the "8" piece was never struck.

Through the hands of Morris and then Thomas Jefferson, the silver coins made their way to Charles Thomsen, the Secretary of Congress. Kept through the years by Thomsen's descendants, the Mark and Quint were acquired by Philadelphia dealer John Haseltine in early 1872, passing into numismatic hands (where they have remained ever since).² The three specimens of the Bit traveled different paths through the years. They were probably all recovered from Thomsen by Morris in 1783 or early 1784, and apparently two of them were sent to the Wyons in Birmingham, England, to serve as design patterns for the "1783" - 1785 copper Nova Constellatio coinage. One of them returned to America in 1885, eventually reaching the hands of Lorin G. Parmelee, who had earlier acquired the Mark and Quint. This group of three pieces was sold privately in 1902 to Col. James Ellsworth, who later sold it to John Work Garrett in 1923 (part of the purchase by Garrett of the Colonial and Private & Territorial gold coins in the huge Ellsworth Collection).³ The group is presently owned by John J. Ford, Jr.

The second specimen of the Bit appeared in the Murdoch⁴ sale in England in 1903, and it also found its way into the Garrett collection, later being sold off as a duplicate after Garrett's purchase of the Ellsworth piece. It is now in the collection of Eric P. Newman.

The present specimen is the third of the three struck in 1783. It was acquired in the 1920's in the Philadelphia area by an Italian gentleman who was visiting this country at that time, who took it (and other American coins) back to Italy when he returned home. One of his descendants found out what the coin was and consigned it to Stack's for auction.

Through the kindness of the present owners of the other two specimens we have been able to make close and detailed comparisons of the die states involved, as well as the strike characteristics and edge of each coin.

1) The characteristics of the obverse die:

- Die dot above right arm of star below V in NOVA.
- Repunched lower right arm of star below N in NOVA.
- Die dots by right end of star below O in CONSTELLATIO.
- Die chip on lower edge of lower eyelid, an extended ray touching its left end.
- Star below first T in CONSTELLATIO mispunched low and left and slightly rotated.
- Die chip at right edge of the eye, joining bases of 3 rays.
- Die break at left side of eye about halfway up, also joining bases of 3 rays.

The above features appear on all three specimens in varying strength, the die chips in slightly differing die states.

2) Characteristics of the reverse die:

- Die dot right of center of second T in JUSTITIA, not touching T.
- Left serif of right upright of U in US (in wreath) split.
- Short curved line down from end of leaf over S in US.
- Small thin curved die line up from leaf below last 0 in denomination.
- Die line connects highest 2 inside leaves left of and over S in US.
- Short spur up from upper base of inner leaf opposite upper part of last 0 in denomination.

The above features appear on all three specimens in varying strength.

The first and second specimens in our list are double struck in different directions; the third specimen shows no double striking. This means that no one of the three specimens could have been made as a copy of any other.

3) Edge characteristics:

- Twin leaf edge design.
- Plain edge with faint planchet adjustment marks.
- Traces of twin leaf design.

Metallurgic tests were performed on each of the specimens of the 1783 Nova Constellatio Bit, including X-ray diffraction.

The following data were obtained:

Specimen #1:

Total weight: 27.75 grains:
7.38% copper; 92.48% silver; 0.14% gold and lead trace elements.

Specimen #2:

Total weight: 26.39 grains:
6.19% copper; 93.65% silver; 0.16% trace elements as above.

Specimen #3:

Total weight: 26.78 grains:
13.39% copper; 86.49% silver; 0.12% trace elements as above.

Total silver weight:

Specimen #1: 25.663 grains.
Specimen #2: 24.714 grains.
Specimen #3: 23.162 grains.

Total copper weight:

Specimen #1: 2.048 grains.
Specimen #2: 1.634 grains.
Specimen #3: 3.586 grains.

Total trace element weight:

Less than 0.1 grain in any specimen.

Relative silver content of the three specimens:

#3/#1 = 0.903
#3/#2 = 0.937
#2/#1 = 0.963

Thus the silver content in any specimen is within 10% of that in any other specimen, a closer correlation than we have observed in the case of the 1783 Chalmers Shillings. The total weight of each specimen is within 10% of the statutory weight (27 grains) to which the Bits were intended to be struck.

The variation in the alloy in the three specimens leads us to suspect that the planchets were made from worn silver coins from various foreign countries, circulating in America in the 1780's (a common source of silver in this country then and later). Some may even have come from worn or damaged silverware.

1 Coin World interview with John J. Ford, Jr., January 9, 1980, pp.1; 3; 16; 44; 48; 73.

2 Woodward and Garrett, Carl Carlson, Part III, The Numismatist, March, 1980, pp. 555-568.

3 With the Editors, The Numismatist, April, 1902, p.107.

4 John G. Murdoch Sale, Part II, Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, London, July 21, 1903, lot 905.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

May 30, 1990

Mr. Harvey G. Stack
STACK'S
123 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

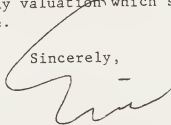
Dear Harvey:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1990 enclosing Polaroids of the 100 mill piece.

It has occurred to me that if your insurance coverage would include delivery from my vault back to my vault, I could send my example of the bit to you for your submission to the same laboratory which analyzed your bit.

I presume that the trace of gold is a surface trace and could have resulted from being rubbed up against a gold coin in the same purse. Does the testing you had made cover any depth or is it all on the surface? Let me know what you suggest as to any valuation which should be used and whether the situation is feasible.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



NUMISMATISTS
AUCTIONEERS - APPRAISERS

Stack's

COINS MEDALS PAPER MONEY

123 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL. 212/582-2580

May 24, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

Thank you for sending me the information from your files relative to the "bit."

Since speaking to you we had the piece we have photographed and sending you herewith a polaroid of the specimen. (The black & whites will be ready soon and we will send you a copy for your files.)

We had the one we have analysed by one of the Dupont laboratories. Enclosed is a copy of their findings. It is interesting to note the gold and zinc tracings. Possibly one of the University labs near you can perform the same test on your specimen. As we are trying to study the piece for further identification we would be pleased to receive an analysis of your piece.

Hoping to hear from you soon and with warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S


Harvey G. Stack

HGS/sr
encl.



17-May-1990 10:47:28

-WARNING-

REVERSE SIDE OF COIN;

A1= 1 P1= 1 P2= 2

COIN

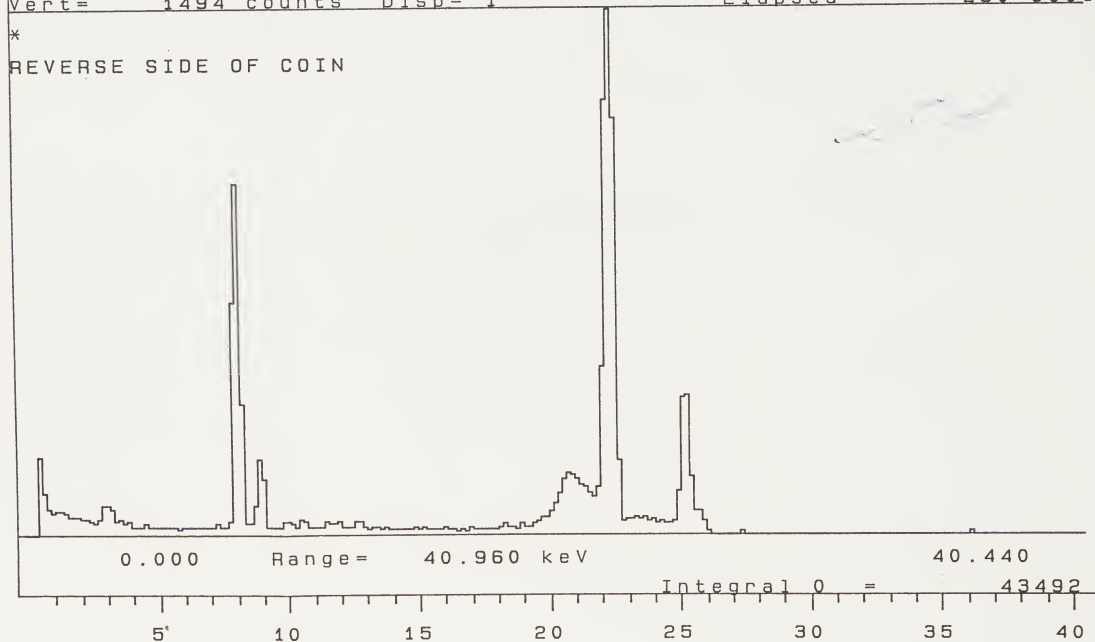
Preset= 250 secs

Vert= 1494 counts Disp= 1

Elapsed= 250 secs

*

REVERSE SIDE OF COIN



17-May-1990 10:52:03

RE/SP COIN-2;

COIN-2

Vert= 1439 counts Disp= 1

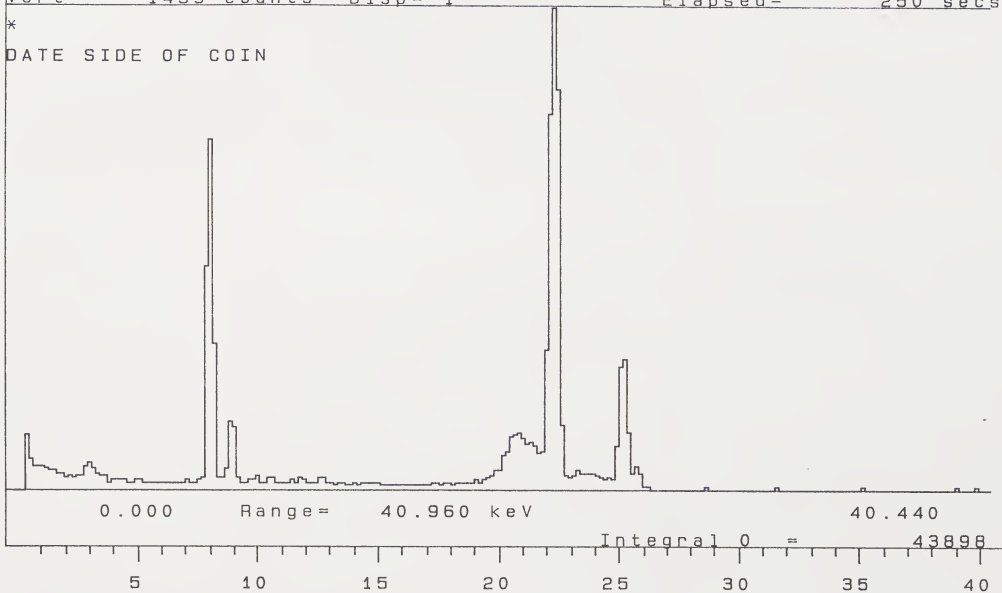
A1= 1 P1= 1 P2= 2

Preset= 250 secs

Elapsed= 250 secs

*

DATE SIDE OF COIN









—1—



—2—



—3—



—4—



Specimen coins struck in 1783 to exemplify Robert Morris' proposed coinage for the United States.

1. 100-unit coin, or cent
2. 500-unit coin, or quint (with variant obverse and light weight)
3. 500-unit coin, or quint
4. 1000-unit coin, or mark

For a general description of these coins, see p. xxvii-xxviii.



Edge decoration on one of
500 mill Nova Const
of Johns Hopkins
Which one ?

Nov 1979



Edge decoration on
Johns Hopkins
1000 mill
Nova Constellatio

Nov 1979



Edge decoration on one of
500 mill Nova Const
of Julius Hopkins
Which one ?

Nov 1979.



Edge decoration on
Johns Hopkins
100 mill
Nova Constellation

Nov 1979